

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**



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**A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC DEVICES TO  
ATTRIBUTE SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN  
NEWS REPORTS - ENGLISH VS.  
VIETNAMESE**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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**M.A. THESIS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**(SUMMARY)**

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. RATIONALE

Suppose the reporter gathered this piece of information: "Many Americans are overweight" from a variety of sources and wanted to inform the news to the readers. This is a pretty strong assertion. However, there is a whole range of things it could be based on:

(1) X says that many Americans are overweight.

(2) According to X, the world's leading authority on Y, has demonstrated that many Americans are overweight.

(3) Some Xs have claimed that many Americans are overweight.  
and so on.

Thus, those expressions involve different dialogistic positionings and may be indicated in language. It is this marking of the source of information that is known as evidentiality. We cannot report the information like "Many Americans are overweight" successfully without attributing or quoting some elements that specify the information's source and authenticity. Hence, learning to interpret and express attributed source of information generally seems to be a difficult task for language learners when reading and writing news reports.

From the assumptions above, we choose to do research on the topic "**A study of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in news reports - English vs. Vietnamese**". Accordingly, to some extent, we hope that an awareness of attribution as reportive markers in newspaper language will not only help readers get a better understanding of the news reports but also provide some necessary strategies in newspaper writing.

## 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 1.2.1 Aims

This study aims at examining the linguistic features of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in news reports, raising the awareness of the role and functions of linguistic devices to attribute source of information to language learners, and providing them with pragmatic knowledge to use linguistic devices to attribute source of information effectively in speaking and writing.

### 1.2.2 Objectives

- To identify, describe and compare linguistic devices to attribute source of information in English and Vietnamese;

- To discover the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese in using linguistic devices to attribute source of information;

- To propose some necessary strategies to the teaching and learning of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in newspaper writing.

## 1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the linguistic devices to attribute source of information in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics?

2. What are the linguistic features of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in English and Vietnamese?

3. What are the similarities and differences of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics?

4. How are typical linguistic devices to attribute source of information distributed in types of written texts in English and Vietnamese?

#### **1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study investigates linguistic devices attributing to source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports from ten well-known electronic newspapers such as The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Los Angeles Times, and The U.S.A Today in English; and The Thanh Nien, The Tuoi Tre, The Tien Phong, The Vietnamnet, and The Cong An Nhan Dan in Vietnamese.

#### **1.5. PREVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION**

### **Chapter 2**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. PRIOR RESEARCHES**

Evidentials have been a growing interest to many linguists who focus their study on the epistemic modality and ways of marking the source of knowledge, for instance, de Haan (1999 [5] , 2001[17], 2005[18]), Jakobson [8], Chafe & Nichols (1986) [2], Palmer (1986) [11], Holmes (1986) [6], Givón (1989) [4],

Regarding to the cross-linguistic studies of evidentials between English and Vietnamese, it should be named here some recent studies by Tran Thi Thanh Chau [3], Le Thi Hai Yen [14], and Truong Nu Van Thi [12]. These studies concentrated on investigating markers in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspects. A wide range of linguistic devices was studied on different structures of verbs, adverbs, adjectives and nouns in the two languages. However, issues about attributing source of information as reportive markers still haven't been mentioned. The concept of attribution and its characteristics in syntax, semantics and pragmatics are still inaccessible to many of us.

Therefore, reportive markers are more deeply explored, especially in different genres of newspaper language.

## **2. 2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.2.1. Overview of Appraisal Theory**

The Appraisal framework is an extension of the linguistic theories of Halliday and his colleagues. The Appraisal framework, an approach to exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual personas and to manage interpersonal positionings and relationships.

The model of Appraisal, the theoretical framework that informs this study, is a functional model of interpersonal meaning at the level of discourse semantics. The framework of appraisal theory accommodates analysis of stance as positioning in relation to values and voices in the text. The model of Appraisal includes a system of options for encoding semantic categories of Attitude, Graduation, and Engagement.

### **2.2.2. Epistemic Modality and Evidentiality**

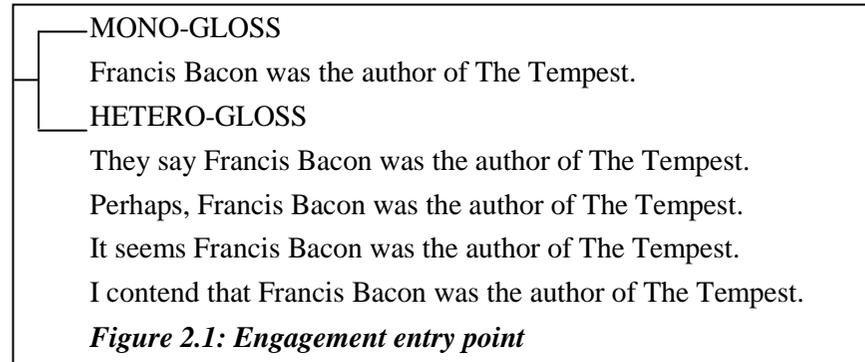
In Chafe & Nichol's (1986) view [2], evidential markers are defined as grammatical categories which indicate how and to what extent speakers stand for the truth of the statements they make. Evidentials illustrate the type of justification for a claim that is available to the person making that claim. In Chafe & Nichol's (1986) terms, they represent a 'natural epistemology'. Evidentials indicate both source and reliability of the information.

### **2.2.3. Engagement**

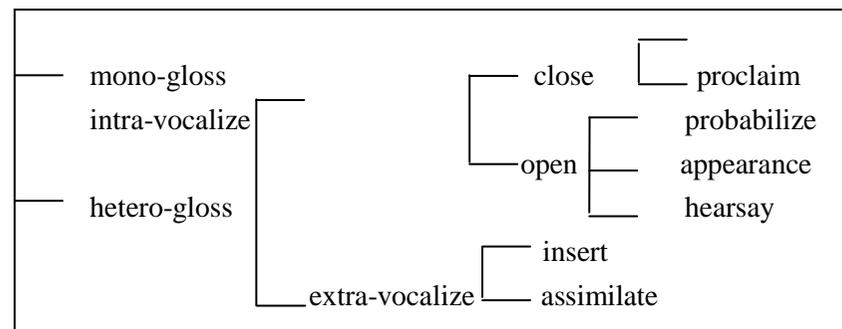
As mentioned above, engagement is the sub-type of Appraisal and includes a system of options for expanding or contracting space

for other voices in discourse, enabling an investigation of the dynamic management of other voices by the writer.

Engagement considers how writers convey their point of view and how they align themselves with respect to the position of others. Let us have a look at Figure 2.1 on the forms of engagement:



According to White (2001) [19], there are two modes of heteroglossia. They are extra-vocalisation and intra-vocalisation. Extra-vocalisation contrasts with an array of resources by which the heteroglossic diversity is construed as more internal to the text, where the dialog (in Bakhtin's terms) is essentially internal rather than external.



**Figure 2.2: Engagement – the network of choices**

## 2.2.4. Attribution as Reportive Markers

When you write a story, your job as a reporter includes gathering information from a variety of sources. When you present the information, you need to attribute things such as quotes or disputable facts to your sources.

In other words, attribution is that part of a quote, whether direct or indirect, where we say who is doing the talking. Attribution is essential in all the media, including radio and television. Journalists do it so that your readers or listeners can know who is speaking or where the information in the story comes from.

## 2.3. THEORY OF POLITENESS

Politeness theory is the theory that accounts for the redressing of the affronts to face posed by face-threatening acts to addressees. First formulated in 1978 by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson [1], politeness theory has since expanded academia's perception of politeness. Politeness is the expression of the speakers' intention to mitigate face threats carried by certain face threatening acts toward another.

## 2.4. CLASSIFICATION OF SOURCE OF INFORMATION

### 2.4.1. Primary Source of Information

**Primary source** [16] is a term used in a number of disciplines to describe source material that is closest to the person, information, period, or idea being studied.

Often the source is someone at the centre of the event or issue. We call such people primary sources. It might be a man who fell 1,000 meters from an aircraft and lived to tell the tale.

### 2.4.2. Secondary Source of Information

A **secondary source** [16] is a document or recording that relates or discusses information originally presented elsewhere.

Secondary sources involve generalization, analysis, synthesis, interpretation, or evaluation of the original information.

Secondary sources are those people who do not make the news, but who pass it on. The official police report of an incident or comments by someone's press officer can be called secondary sources. Secondary sources are not usually as reliable as primary sources. News-writers have to assess the reliability of secondary sources and if necessary tell your readers or listeners where the information came from.

## 2.5. RELATED CONCEPTS

### 2.6. LINGUISTIC REALIZATION OF ATTRIBUTING SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWS REPORTS

#### 2.6.1. Linguistic Realization of Attributing Source of Information in English News Reports

(1) **Reportedly**, the weapon was purchased by Jared Loughner, who, according to the community college he attended, has a history of mental health issues. [C11]

(2) **Rumors** surfaced this week that the producers had unsuccessfully wooed British movie star Hugh Grant as a replacement. [B24]

(3) **It was evident that** James was more motivated for this game than usual. [B17]

(4) Senior Tunisian military sources **said** the gunmen belonged to factions still loyal to the country's strongman leader, President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia on Friday night. [A15]

#### 2.6.2. Linguistic Realization of Attributing Source of Information in Vietnamese News Reports

(5) **Đường như** kêu mãi mà bao nhiêu bức xúc chẳng được cơ quan có trách nhiệm giải quyết, người dân ở đây đâm ra ghét lây cả báo chí. [F1]

(6) Gần đây **có tin đồn rằng** Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Bắc Kinh đưa ra khuyến cáo người dân Việt Nam không ăn hoa quả của Trung Quốc vì có chứa chất “phá hủy nội tạng” [I1]

(7) **Rõ ràng**, khi thuê được rồi, các ông chủ nước ngoài sẽ ngăn lại, làm mất quyền giao thông, mất quyền khai thác tại vùng biển quê hương của người dân. [J15]

(8) Đại diện cảnh sát Thái Lan **cho biết** sẽ có hình thức xử lý nghiêm dịch vụ để thuê và thụ tinh nhân tạo bất hợp pháp. [J16]

## 2.7. SUMMARY

In this chapter, we have reviewed the literature of the previous works relating to the thesis. This chapter also introduces Appraisal theory, which explores subjectivity from the linguistic point of view and offers systematic categorization of particular types of evaluation. Besides this, I have compared the outcomes of this theory with related concepts in the field of linguistics and sources of information. Also, the theory politeness is presented to mitigate the FTA, which is useful for discovering pragmatic features. Finally, linguistic realizations of attributing source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports have been displayed.

## Chapter 3

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. RESEARCH METHOD

The qualitative and quantitative analysis of linguistic devices to attribute source of information in English and Vietnamese was based on the description of common markers of attribution in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features.

#### 3.2. DATA COLLECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CORPORA

The data which form the basis for the comparison were from news reports of ten well-known electronic newspapers. The research was intended to collect 500 English samples and 500 Vietnamese ones. The English reportive markers come from news reports of The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Los Angeles Times, and The U.S.A. Today; and the Vietnamese ones are from The Thanh Nien, The Tuoi Tre, The Tien Phong, The Vietnamnet, and The Cong An Nhan Dan.

#### 3.3. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Data were analyzed along the dimensions of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Within these domains, reportive markers in newspapers were closely examined to yield the qualitative information about their linguistic properties. The analysis of reportive markers undertaken in this research was carried out on English and Vietnamese newspaper corpora of 1000 samples, of which 500 samples in English and 500 ones in Vietnamese were examined.

#### 3.4. PROCEDURE

Firstly, we collected lexical devices to attribute source of information in different news reports from ten chosen electronic newspapers. Secondly, we checked and excluded all the items which

are mistaken by the research engines because of homonymy and polysemy. After that, we picked out different types of attributive expressions according to structural, semantic and pragmatic characteristics. Based on these criteria, we presented, described, and analyzed reportive markers in English in comparison with those in Vietnamese to find out similarities and differences of attributive expressions in English and Vietnamese newspapers. Next, we analyzed and discussed the results of the research to find out the frequency of occurrence of reportive markers in English newspapers and in Vietnamese ones.

#### 3.5. LIMITATION OF THE METHOD

## Chapter 4

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTING SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWS REPORTS

##### 4.1.1. Adverbial Structures of Attributing Source of Information in the Clausal Structure in English and Vietnamese

(10) **Reportedly**, the weapon was purchased by Jared Loughner, who, according to the community college he attended, has a history of mental health issues. [C11]

(15) **Đường như** các chủ phương tiện đi lại và ngành quản lý giao thông chưa ý thức được tầm quan trọng của các dụng cụ sơ cứu, cứu hộ trên phương tiện. [J8]

##### 4.1.2. Noun Structures of Attributing Source of Information in the Clausal Structure in English and Vietnamese

**The + N + V + that + P/There be + N + that + P/According to + N + P  
N + V + (rằng / là) + P / Có + N + V + (rằng / là) + P / Theo + N + P**

(26) **The report said that** such rewards could be "an effective way of encouraging people to change their unhealthy ways." [A9]

(36) **Theo đồn thổi** thì những cô model của Victoria Secret có được vóc dáng thon thả cũng là nhờ ăn theo Atkins. [I4]

**Subject + V + N + that + P/ Subject + V + N + to - infinitive clause/ P<sub>1</sub> + According to + N + P<sub>2</sub>**

**Chủ ngữ + V + N + (rằng) + P/ Có + N + V + (rằng/ là) + P/ P<sub>1</sub> + theo + N + P<sub>2</sub>**

(37) **The Titans released a statement that** Munchak also told defensive assistant Rayna Stewart and offensive assistant Richie Wessman that they will not be retained. [D14]

(41) Cách tốt nhất để phòng chống siêu vi khuẩn, **theo vị Phó trưởng khoa Cấp cứu – Điều trị tích cực của BV Bệnh nhiệt đới TW này**, là mọi người phải sử dụng kháng sinh đúng cách, tuân thủ chỉ định của thầy thuốc. [H2]

**P + Subject + V + N/ P + according to + N**

**P + Chủ từ + V + N**

(42) "As we enter 2011, I am more confident than ever in our ability to transform into a normal company," Chief Executive Ben Verwaayen **said in a statement**. [B18]

(45) Một bản in của cuốn sách về các loài chim ở Mỹ Birds of America của tác giả John James Audubon, được xem như là cuốn sách đắt giá nhất thế giới, sẽ được đem ra bán đấu giá trong thời gian tới, **theo BBC ngày 9.9**. [G4]

**4.1.3. Adjective Structures of Attributing Source of Information in the Clausal Structure in English and Vietnamese**

**S + Be + Adj. + That + P / IT + Be + Adj. + That + P**

**Adj. + (là) + P**

(46) Analyst P. Carter Bundy of Stifel Financial **is confident that** improving market conditions this year will reverse the trend of loan declines. [E6]

(54) Và tin đồn trên **rõ ràng** là không có nguồn gốc, không do những người có trách nhiệm của ngành y tế hay các chuyên gia đưa ra, nên không có gì để tin được. [F23]

**4.1.4. Verb Structures of Attributing Source of Information in the Clausal Structure in English and Vietnamese**

**Subject + V + (that) + P / P<sub>1</sub> + Subject + V + P<sub>2</sub>**

**P + V + Subject / P + Subject + V**

**Chủ từ + V + (rằng) + P / P<sub>1</sub> + Chủ từ + V + P<sub>2</sub> / P + Chủ từ + V**

(55) **Authorities say** a possible serial rapist may be stalking women on skid row after what appears to be a second sexual assault involving a van driver in as many weeks. [B3]

(60) “Việt Nam đang đứng trước nguy cơ tuyệt chủng về hổ”, **ông Trần Việt Hưng, cán bộ ENV, nhấn mạnh**. [F19]

**4.1.5. Passivization Structures of Attributing Source of Information in the Clausal Structure in English and Vietnamese**

**IT + Be + V<sub>passive</sub> + That + P / S + Be + V<sub>passive</sub> + to Inf. Clause**

(63) At the time, **it was rumored that** Joe Torre, the Dodgers manager, was going to retire and would be replaced by Mattingly, his hitting coach. [C15]

(74) **Nghe nói** có vài trung tâm băng nhạc “quyet” của anh tổng số tiền đến triệu đô, còn anh thì không đủ kiên trì và sức lực đòi lại nữa [H16]

**4.1.6. Summary**

**Table 4.1 Syntactic positions of attributing source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports**

Category	English			Vietnamese		
	I	M	F	I	M	F
Adverb	+	+	+	+	+	-
Noun	+	+	+	+	+	+
Adjective	+	-	-	+	-	-
Verb	+	+	+	+	+	+

## 4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTING SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWS REPORTS

### 4.2.1. Showing Scale of Reliability

(78) **Apparently** there is a right way and a wrong way to place your order at Starbucks Coffee. [D3]

(79) **Dường như** kêu mãi mà bao nhiêu bức xúc chẳng được cơ quan có trách nhiệm giải quyết, người dân ở đây đâm ra ghét lây cả báo chí. [F1]

(93) “**Dĩ nhiên** có thể tìm tài liệu trên website nhưng không phải ai cũng có thể truy cập Intrenet, hơn nữa mất nhiều thời gian tìm kiếm”, một học sinh nói. [H19]

**Table 4.3 The degree of reliability of some common adverbs as reportive markers in English and Vietnamese news reports**

Degree of reliability	Adverbs as reportive markers	
	English	Vietnamese
The least reliable	perhaps / maybe / possibly	có thể, có lẽ
	apparently / probably	hình như, có vẻ / có thể

.	allegedly / reputedly	được cho là
.	unclearly / unsurely	không rõ ràng/không
.	confidently / naturally	chắc chắn
.	undoubtedly	tin tưởng / dĩ nhiên
The most reliable	clearly / obviously	không nghi ngờ
	certainly/ surely	rõ ràng, hiển nhiên
		chắc chắn

(110) “I want both countries to stop fighting, so that I can go home,” said **37-year-old, Saman Yingnaram, a farmer in Prasat**. “My cassava field will be sabotaged by insects by the time I return.”

[E10]

(118) **Theo GS-TS Hồ Sĩ Quý, Viện trưởng Viện Thông tin khoa học xã hội, Viện Khoa học xã hội Việt Nam**, “Hoài Đức phủ toàn đồ” là tấm bản đồ cổ nhất và quý nhất trong bộ sưu tập bản đồ hành chính Hà Nội cổ từ đầu thế kỷ XIX đến cuối thế kỷ XX.

[G5]

**Table 4.4 The degree of reliability of some common nouns attributed to the source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports**

Degree of reliability	Nouns as reportive markers	
	English	Vietnamese
The least reliable	(According to) an unofficial source/ an unverified source/ unconfirmed reports / rumor/ testimony/ speculation initial information / a certain	(Theo) nguồn tin chưa chính thức/chưa thống kê đầy đủ/chưa xác minh đồn thổi/ tin đồn/ dư luận/ lời kể/ lời khai/ thông tin ban đầu / một

.	Mr. X / Department /	ông X nào đó /
.	Ministry / Branches /	Ban/Bộ/Ngành/Cơ
.	agencies / news from ...	quan, tin từ hãng tin ...
.	the authorities /	nhà chức trách/khoa
.	scientists / statistics/	học / thống kê của...
.	reports/ research /	/báo cáo/ nghiên
.	experiment/ survey	cứu/thí nghiệm/ điều
.	reliable source / a	tra nguồn đáng tin cậy
.	senior government	một viên chức chính
.	official / a leading	phủ cao cấp/một viên
.	official/ chairman,	chức hàng đầu/ chủ
.	president/ prime	tịch / tổng thống/ thủ
The most	minister	tướng
reliable		

(120) **It's apparent that** her publicists, who sit nearby during the interview, care far more about censorship than Jones does. [D11]

(130) “Tôi sẽ rất ngạc nhiên nếu như Bin Laden hy sinh một người vợ để làm lá chắn cho mình, nhưng **tôi chắc chắn rằng**, người đàn bà ấy đã nguyện xông lên để đỡ đạn cho ông ta” - Phil Mudd, một cựu chuyên gia cấp cao của CIA phát biểu trên ABC News. [H21]

**Table 4.5 The degree of reliability of some common adjectives as reportive markers in English and Vietnamese news reports**

Degree of reliability	Adjectives as reportive markers	
	English	Vietnamese
The least reliable	probable /	có lẽ / hình như, có vẻ
.	apparent	có thể
.	possible	được cho là / được coi là
.	alleged / reputed	lo sợ / quan ngại

.	fearful / worried	không rõ ràng
.	unclear	tin tưởng / đương nhiên
.	confident / natural	không nghi ngờ
The most	undoubted	rõ ràng
reliable	clear / obvious	chắc chắn
	certain / sure	

(131) Conservative bloggers **spread the rumor** that President Obama's a Muslim like that is some kind of crime. [C7]

(154) GS-TS Đặng Huy Huỳnh, Chủ tịch Hội Động vật học Việt Nam, **khẳng định**: “Ở nước ta không có loài rùa tai đỏ. Đây là loại sinh vật ngoại lai”. [G9]

**Table 4.6 The degree of reliability of some common verbs as reportive markers in English and Vietnamese news reports**

Degree of reliability	Verbs as reportive markers	
	English	Vietnamese
The least reliable	spread the rumor/	đồn/ loan tin /
.	rumor/ hear	nghe nói/ nghe đâu/
.	seem/ appear/ repute	nghe đồn/thấy báo
.	fear/ worry / allege/	nghe có vẻ/ dường
.	claim/ suppose	như/ quan ngại/lo
.	believe/ think/	lắng, được biết/ tin/
.	suggest/ estimate/	nghĩ / dự đoán /
.	predict /tell/ say/	báo/ nói/ tiết lộ/
.	reveal/ state/ cite /	khai/ dẫn lời/ kể/
.	show/ point out/	bộc bạch/ tâm sự/
.	indicate/ add/ note/	nhớ lại / phát
.	find/ remark/	biểu/thêm vào/ cho
.	conclude/ agree/	rằng/ cho thấy/ cho

.	argue /acknowledge /	hay/ cho biết / kết
.	admit / warn/ confirm	luận/thừa nhận,
.	/ assert/ assure /	khuyến cáo/ xác
.	announce/ pronounce/	nhận /khẳng định/
.	declare	quả quyết / tuyên
The most reliable	stress/ emphasize	bổ/ nhấn mạnh

From this semantic phenomenon, the reader can base on the writer's choice of reporting verbs to refer to the validity of what is said.

#### 4.2.2. Indicating Engagement

##### 4.2.2.1. Proclamation

(157) **It is my contention that** Barry Boonds and all the other baseball players DID NOT CHEAT. [C18]

(163) Nhiều tờ báo uy tín ở Hollywood **khẳng định**, cái chết của kẻ thù số một nước Mỹ có thể là cơ may cho công nghiệp điện ảnh Mỹ thời gian sắp tới. [H22]

##### 4.2.2.2. Probability

(164) It's definitely one of the landmarks of Auburn and **probably** the biggest Auburn tradition that's been going on here for many years. [E9]

(168) **Tôi nghĩ** nhạc vàng có giá trị của nó, nhạc sến cũng có giá trị của nó. Phải có những giá trị nhỏ thì người ta mới biết giá trị lớn chứ. Không nên đánh giá cái nào thấp quá hoặc cao quá. [H6]

##### 4.2.2.3. Appearance

(172) **It's obvious that** human life does begin at conception.

C17]

(176) “Một bữa ăn trưa trong một khách sạn 5 sao **đương như** đã bị một kẻ nào đó ở bộ phận ẩm thực cố tình chơi xỏ bằng cách bố trí các đĩa trang trí thành một từ mang ý nghĩa tục tĩu bằng tiếng Anh.

Kẻ bố trí những đĩa này chắc chắn là người biết và hiểu nghĩa của từ tục tĩu đó”, ông Phi nói. [G12]

##### 4.2.2.4. Hearsay

(180) The air base **has long been rumored** to be home to drones used in missile strikes on Pakistan's tribal areas. [D21]

(181) Hiện tượng “siêu Mặt trăng” hôm 19/3 vừa qua, chỉ cách có 8 ngày sau trận động đất sóng thần kinh hoàng tại Nhật Bản, nên có nhiều **lời đồn** đoán hiện tượng “siêu mặt trăng” có thể là dấu hiệu tiếp theo cảnh báo động đất, núi lửa. [J19]

##### 4.2.2.5. Insertion/Direct Quote

(186) "**It is obvious that** Mubarak has the army's full loyalty." said retired Gen. Abdel Rahman Abdel Halim. [B15]

(189) **Theo một nông dân họ Trương**: “Trưa 20/2, tôi đã mua một vài gói mì về để ăn. Trong lúc nấu, một vài sợi mì vương vãi ra ngoài bén lửa rồi cháy rất nhanh và tỏa ra mùi khó chịu.” [J14]

##### 4.2.2.6. Assimilation / Indirect Quote

(193) About 14 million people have been affected by the floods, 6 million of them are children, **according to the United Nations children's organization**, usually known as Unicef. [C4]

(199) Thủ tướng Campuchia Hun Sen **tuyên bố** ngày 25/11 là ngày quốc tang để tưởng niệm những người thiệt mạng trong một vụ giẫm đạp lên nhau ở thủ đô Phnom Penh. [J11]

#### 4.2.3. Summary

In short, attribution to source of information as reportive markers in both languages can be semantically categorized into two groups: scale of reliability and engagement. Scale of reliability examined on the four aspects including adverbs, nouns, adjectives, and verbs is ranked from the least reliable to the most reliable meanings. As for engagement, it is

divided into smaller groups such as proclamation, probability, appearance, hearsay, insertion, and assimilation.

### 4.3. PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF ATTRIBUTING SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWS REPORTS

#### 4.3.1. Accuracy - orientation

(200) Coroner Dr Paul Knapman **said that** after breaking into the flat, police "found a large holdall in the bath in the en suite bathroom of the main bedroom. [A7]

(203) Gần đây **có tin đồn rằng** Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Bắc Kinh đưa ra khuyến cáo người dân Việt Nam không ăn hoa quả của Trung Quốc vì có chứa chất "phá hủy nội tạng". [I1]

#### 4.3.2. Speaker/Writer - orientation

##### 4.3.2.1. Defamation

(204) **People say** Obama is not taking REAL action on the Gulf Spill because he is weak and ineffectual. [C1]

(208) Đầu tháng 12/2010 **tin đồn đưa ra là** hai hoa khôi năm nhất của một trường Đại học lớn ở Thái Nguyên bị kẻ xấu hãm hiếp. [J13]

##### 4.3.2.2. Withdrawal of Responsibility

(212) **People say** the army is sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood. [E14]

(214) **Nói như** ông Nguyễn Quang Kính: "Đổi mới căn bản, toàn diện hay cải cách giáo dục chỉ là một nội dung nếu chúng ta có đề án tổng thể do người đứng đầu hội đồng quốc gia như Chủ tịch nước hoặc Thủ tướng Chính phủ soạn thảo. Đề án này phải được Quốc hội thông qua và có bố trí ngân sách, tránh tình trạng cải cách nhưng không có tiền thực hiện như ngày xưa". [H20]

#### 4.3.3. Hearer/Reader - orientation

(217) **One hears** that schools like Virginia Tech, J.M.U. and University of Virginia are much tougher to get into. [C10]

(221) **Tôi nghe** Hoàn (Trần Hoàn-Chủ tịch HĐQT, Tổng Giám đốc Cty CP Sâm Ngọc Linh) bảo trồng hơn 100 ha, song chưa tin. Phải xem tận mắt đã. [H23]

#### 4.3.4. Summary

In brief, we have just analyzed pragmatic meanings of attribution to source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports. From the analysis, we can find out that the distinction between them is not clear. In many situations, they overlap one another. One reportive marker can do more than one function at the same time because it has different pragmatic meanings. Reportive markers are used to show accuracy - orientation, speaker/writer - orientation, and hearer/reader - orientation.

### 4.4. QUANTITATIVE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS

#### 4.4.1. The Distribution of Reportive Markers in Grammatical Categories

*Table 4.9 Relative frequency (%) of grammatical categories of reportive markers in English and Vietnamese news reports*

Grammatical Categories	English		Vietnamese	
	Raw number	Percentage	Raw number	Percentage
Adverb	102	20.4	92	18.4
Noun	146	29.2	183	36.6
Adjective	24	4.8	18	3.6
Verb	228	45.6	207	41.4
Total	500	100%	500	100%

#### 4.4.2. The Distribution of Reportive Markers in Syntactic Categories

*Table 4.11 Relative frequency (%) of reportive markers in syntactic positions in the clausal structure in English and Vietnamese news reports*

Categories	English		Vietnamese	
	Raw number	Percentage	Raw number	Percentage
I	375	75	370	74
M	43	8.6	40	8
F	82	16.4	90	18
Total	500	100%	500	100%

#### 4.4.3. The Distribution of Reportive Markers in Semantic Categories

*Table 4.17 Relative frequency (%) of reportive markers in semantic categories in the clausal structure in English and Vietnamese news reports*

Semantic types	English		Vietnamese		
	Raw number	Percentage	Raw number	Percentage	
Reliability	69	13.8	71	14.2	
Engagement	Proclamation	56	11.2	53	10.6
	Probability	54	10.8	57	11.4
	Appearance	51	10.2	48	9.6
	Hearsay	39	7.8	42	8.4
	Insertion	107	21.4	98	19.6
	Assimilation	124	24.8	131	26.2
Total	500	100%	500	100%	

#### 4.4.4. The Distribution of Reportive Markers in Pragmatic Categories

*Table 4.18 Relative frequency (%) of reportive markers in pragmatic categories in the clausal structure in English and Vietnamese news reports*

Pragmatic types	English		Vietnamese		
	Raw number	Percentage	Raw number	Percentage	
Accuracy - orientation	192	38.4	186	37.2	
Speaker/Writer orientation	Defamation	18	3.6	22	4.4
	Withdrawal of Responsibility	114	22.8	127	25.4
Hearer/Reader- orientation	176	35.2	165	33	
Total	500	100%	500	100%	

### 45. SOME COMMENTS ON THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN ATTRIBUTION TO SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWS REPORTS.

#### 4.5.1. Similarities

#### 4.5.2. Differences

### Chapter 5

## CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1. CONCLUSION

Typologically, English and Vietnamese employ the same lexical devices to express attribution: adverbs, nouns, adjectives, and verbs, among of which verbs are the predominant group, and adjectives make up the smallest percentage. However, English verbs, adverbs, and adjectives make up bigger proportions than Vietnamese ones while Vietnamese nouns in attribution make up the bigger proportion than English ones.

Syntactically, most of the attributions to source of information in the two languages share the same positions: initial, medial, and final. They are usually used in initial position when conveying information and make up a smallest percentage in final position. In addition, attribution with adjectives was not found in medial and final positions from the data. However, Vietnamese news-writers hardly use attribution with adverbs in final position compared with 7.8% in English. As for frequency of attribution to source of information in English and Vietnamese news reports per 1,000 words, English news-writers intend to use more attribution than Vietnamese ones. And as for patterns, both English and Vietnamese share the majority of the same patterns. However, there is no inversion between the reporting verbs and the speaker in reporting phrase with verbs in Vietnamese. Moreover, English reporters use passive structures with high frequency while Vietnamese ones tend to employ active structures.

Semantically, attribution to source of information in both English and Vietnamese news reports can be categorized into two groups: showing scale of reliability and indicating engagement. However, there is no difference in the distribution of the semantic type of reliability between English and Vietnamese. As for engagement, both in English and Vietnamese, hearsay and appearance categories play a minor part as compared with those of probability, proclamation, insertion, and assimilation. It is interesting to find that hearsay in English makes up the smallest percentage while assimilation in Vietnamese is the dominant category in the distribution.

Pragmatically, English and Vietnamese reportive markers function in three orientations: accuracy - orientation, writer/speaker - orientation, and reader/hearer - orientation. Both English and Vietnamese make more use of accuracy - orientation and lesser use of defamation. Yet, the

difference is not very great. Vietnamese take advantage of using withdrawal of responsibility more than that in English.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Firstly, in the actual performance of modalized utterances with reportive markers, the Vietnamese learners of English may ignore this linguistic fact and may stick to the use of some common reportive markers.

Secondly, the reporting phrase containing verbs as attribution part after the content of information is used with two ways such as Mr. X said or said Mr. X but this is unacceptable in Vietnamese. Therefore, English learners of Vietnamese can avoid this way of attributing because there is no equivalence here.

Thirdly, the Vietnamese have a habit of using active forms while the English prefer to use passive ones. So learners need to understand customs, culture and society of the target language communities.

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

Because there is a limit on time and knowledge, the author of this paper cannot cover a wide range of devices as well as deeper research on semantic and pragmatic features of attribution to source of information. In order to attain a more complete study, the author hopes this study of the field should be further investigated in:

- + modal verbs illustrating different degrees on the scale of likelihood such as will, may, could, might, etc
- + the modal certainty of headlines
- + favorable reporting verbs and unfavorable reporting verbs
- + defending defamation in newspaper law.