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**THE 2016 NATIONAL MATRICULATION AND GENERAL
CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION ENGLISH TEST:
A CHALLENGE TO THE GOAL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE
EDUCATION IN VIETNAMESE SCHOOLS**Hoang Van Van
Center of Linguistics and International Studies, VNU University of Languages and International Studies,
Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam

**Abstract:** Every year in Vietnam there are nearly a million Vietnamese 12 graders taking as compulsory
the English test to be eligible to receive a general certificate of secondary school education. Since 2015, the
English test has been used for students to achieve two goals: (1) to receive a general certificate of secondary
school education and (2) to gain entrance to Vietnamese universities and colleges. The test is referred to as
“the national matriculation and general certificate of secondary education English test”. It has a clear format,
clearly specified contents, a clear and detailed marking scheme, and is made public in the Vietnamese mass
media. However, looked at from both theoretical and practical levels, there are still problems with the test
that need to be examined and discussed. This is the purpose of this paper. As a way of start, the paper will
provide a description of the test. Then, it will examine and discuss some of its key qualities, and present its
washback and impact on the Vietnamese general school foreign language education. In the conclusion, after
summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the test, the paper will conclude that due to its weaknesses
in both content and form of testing and its long-term negative washback, the 2016 national matriculation
and general certificate of secondary education English test presents a big challenge to the communication
goal of the Vietnamese general foreign language education. The paper recommends that for the quality of
foreign language teaching and learning in Vietnamese schools to be improved and for the foreign language
education in Vietnamese schools to meet the requirements of the period of integration and globalization, a
radical renovation in both the test format and test administration should be exercised.
*Keyword*: the 2016 national matriculation and general certificate of secondary education English test

**US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP
UNDER THE TRUMP’S ADMINISTRATION**Nguyen Ngoc Anh
*Center of Linguistics and International Studies, VNU University of Languages and International
Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** The article first highlights the international context and introduces international
researchers’ predictions about the relationship of the US and China after Donald Trump was elected
the 45th president of the United States. Secondly, with reference to theories of foreign policy
analysis, this article analyzes the predictions. Finally, the article predicts that the relationship of the
US and China under the Trump’s administration will become tenser, but no conflict will happen.
The article argues that all countries must put their national interests above all else. In the relationship
of the US and China, tension will protect the national interests, but conflict will harm them.
*Keywords:* relationship, US, China, Donald Trump, Xi Jinping

**A COMPARISON OF GERMAN - VIETNAMESE NOUN
PHRASES AND SOME TRENDS OF CHANGE IN NOUN PHRASE
STRUCTURE MODEL IN A TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN
INTO VIETNAMESE**Nguyen Thi Ngoc Diep
*Faculty of German Language and Culture, VNU University of Languages and International Studies,
Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** The article discusses some basic issues regarding grammatical structure and semantic
characteristics of German noun phrases. Then, in comparison with Vietnamese counterparts, the article
points out similarities and differences of noun phrases in the two languages. Besides, through the
survey of a translation from German into Vietnamese, the article shows some common trends of
change in noun phrases.
*Keywords:* noun phrases, German, Vietnamese, compare, survey

**RECRUITMENT OF KOREAN-SPEAKING EMPLOYEES
FROM GRADUATES’ PERSPECTIVE**Do Thuy Hang, La Thi Thanh Mai, Dang Nguyen Thuy Duong
*Faculty of Korean Language and Culture, VNU University of Languages and International Studies,
Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract**: This article is part of the research grant No N.16.17 by the University of Languages and
International Studies - Vietnam National University, Hanoi. In essence, this is a needs analysis centering
around the question what employers require from Korean-speaking graduates, especially those produced
by the Faculty of Korean Language and Culture, University of Languages and International Studies, VNU.
A survey was conducted among the Faculty’s graduates in employment in various Korean or Korean related businesses, offices and institutions to see, *inter alia,* if they satisfy employers’ requirements and
expectations, and what needs to be supplemented in our training programs. This paper presents the results of
our survey from graduates’ perspective only, and employers’ inputs will be given in an up-coming account.
*Keywords:* connection, enterprises, schools, recruitment needs, Korean

**CHARACTERISTICS OF CHINESE RENMINRIBAO’S ARTICLE
HEADLINES AND RELATED ISSUES IN TRANSLATION**Do Thi Thanh Huyen
*Faculty of Chinese Language and Culture, VNU University and Languages and International
Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** This paper uses the quantitative analysis method and the corpus descriptive
method, toanalyze linguistic characteristics in Renminribao article headlines, including lexical, grammatical and rhetorical features in order to find out common characteristics used in this famous newspaper. Also, the paper puts the results in comparison with article headlines in the Vietnamese Nhandan newspaper to draw necessary conclusions for Chinese - Vietnamese newspaper headline translation.
*Keywords:* headlines, Renminribao, language features, translation

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO NEGATIVE TRANSFER OF COUNTABLE
AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS FROM VIETNAMESE TO ENGLISH**Phan Thi Ngoc Le
*Faculty of English, VNU University of Languages and International Studies,
Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** This article presents the summary of our research on the negative language transfer in
the expression of countable and uncountable nouns from Vietnamese to English. We collected 146 master
theses written in English by Vietnamese graduates. To achieve the research aims, the comparative method
is firstly used to identify some basic grammatical differences in English countable and uncountable nouns
between two language systems. Based on such grammatical differences between Vietnamese and English,
the article investigates the negative effects of those differences on the expression of English countable
and uncountable nouns in the master theses of Vietnamese graduates. The results show that Vietnamese
graduates tend to individuate mass nouns in English due to the negative effects from Vietnamese. It is
expected that understanding linguistic differences in terms of English countable and uncountable nouns
between students’ L1 and English may help learners to reduce interference from their first language.
*Keywords:* language transfer, error analysis, countable and uncountable nouns in English and
Vietnamese

**INVESTIGATING THE USE OF ENGLISH IN TOURISM SIGNS
AT SOME TOURIST PLACES IN NORTHERN VIETNAM**Nguyen Thi Minh Tam, Nguyen Dieu Hong, Tran Thi Long
*VNU University of Languages and International Studies,
Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to investigate the use of English in a specialized type of
discourse - tourism signs. Data for the research include 203 tourism signs collected from 8 tourist places in
Northern Vietnam. These signs were examined in terms of the overall quality (visibility, reader-friendliness,
designs and illustrations) and the quality of the English used. As for multilingual signs, only the English
content is analysed. Major problems of English used in tourism signs are found in spelling and grammar,
lexical choices, equivalence in terms of contents between the Vietnamese texts and their English translated
versions, pragmatics and styles. Based on the findings, some suggestions to improve the use of English in
tourism signs are discussed in the final part of this paper.
*Keywords:* public signs, tourism signs, bilingual signs, translation errors

**ON A THEORETICAL FOUNDATION FOR PROFESSIONAL
TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER TRAINING AND
EDUCATION FOR VIETNAM**Le Hung Tien
*Center of Linguistics and International Studies, VNU University of Languages and International
Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** The paper addresses the need to develop a theoretical foundation for professional translator
and interpreter training and education for Vietnam. Section 1 gives a brief outline of the history as well
as the current development of translator and interpreter training in the world and in Vietnam. Section
2 presents the fundamental concepts in translation pedagogy such as translation competence, translator
competence, types of training programmes and curricula, approaches and methods of training and translation
assessment. Based on the analysis of the weaknesses in the current translation training of Vietnam some
recommendations for the development of an appropriate theoretical foundation are made.
*Keywords:* theoretical foundation, translator and interpreter training, translation competence

**APOLOGIZING STRATEGIES BY VIETNAMESE SPEAKERS OF
ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH**Nguyen Thuy Trang
*Faculty of Linguistics and Cultures of English-speaking Countries,
VNU University of Languages and International Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay,
Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** This research has investigated how twenty American working with Vietnamese and twenty
Vietnamese working with Americans in Vietnam performed the speech act of apologizing in three given
situations. A discourse completion task was employed to investigate their choices of apologizing strategies
in light of apologizing strategies proposed by Cohen and Olshtain (1993) and Trosborg (1995). Findings
of the apologizing strategy preferences have, firstly, strengthened the arguments of previous cross-cultural
studies by Olshtain (1989) and Elli (1994) that apologizing strategies tend to be similar cross-linguistically
when comparable contexts and the level of offense are given. Nonetheless, the most distinguishable
difference in the use of apologizing strategies by the participants is that the Americans often employed
the strategy *Offer of repair* whereas Vietnamese subjects were more likely to show their *Concern for the
hearer* through which the images of a sentimental Vietnamese culture and a rational American culture
were sharpened*.* The features of individualism and collectivism were also found helpful in explaining this
difference and above all, in spite of frequent contacts with one another, both the Vietnamese and American
subjects were not affected by others’ communicating practices.
*Keywords:* apologizing strategies, American culture, Vietnamese culture, speech act

**STUDENTS’ VIEWS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION
OF THE VNU INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ENGLISH
TEACHING PROGRAMME**Huynh Anh Tuan1, Do Thi Anh Thu2
1Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies, VNU University of Languages and International Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam
2Faculty of Foreign Languages, Vietnam Maritime University, 484 Lach Tray, Ngo Quyen, Hai Phong, Vietnam
PhD. Research Student, VNU University of Languages and International Studies

**Abstract:** This paper reflects and analyzes the current situation of teaching English to International
Standard Programme (ISP) students based on the survey results of the students’ opinions of the programme’s
teaching and learning activities to make some suggestions for the improvement of the programme and
students’ outcome quality. The survey results indicated that despite some issues yet to be resolved and
improved, most of the students claimed that the programme was significantly effective and suitable for
outcome-based education.
*Keywords*: International Standard Programme (ISP), intensive English teaching model, outcome based education, English proficiency

**A STUDY OF ENGLISH MAJORS’ MOTIVATION OF LEARNING
CHINESE AS A SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT BANKING
UNIVERSITY HO CHI MINH CITY**Luu Hon Vu
*Faculty of Foreign Languages, Banking University Ho Chi Minh City,
36 Ton That Dam, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** Through questionnaire survey method, this study aims to clarify English majors’ motivation
of learning Chinese as a second foreign language at Banking University Ho Chi Minh city. Survey results
show that students’ motivation is great. Of three aspects like language, learners and learning environment,
learning motivation regarding learning environment is the greatest. In the relationship between achievement
and motivation, the students’ passion for Chinese language and culture motivates their achievement.
*Keywords:* learning motivation, second foreign language, Chinese

**CAT-RELATED KOREAN PROVERBS**Hoang Thi Yen
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Studies, Pham Van Dong, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Abstract:** The paper uses a combination of descriptive and comparative methods in investigating
cat-related proverbs in the Korean language, explaining their meanings and classifying them into various
categories in order to highlight the didactic values and lessons from life experience of the Korean people
through the image of cats. Naturally endowed with various characteristics, both positive and negative, cats
are used as an analogy for the Korean people to reflect their world outlook, criticism as well as protest
against social evils, injustice, or their sacarsm of human undesirable personality. The national cultural
footprints of the Korean people are also represented through cat-related proverbs. These form the essence
of this account of cat-related Korean proverbs.
*Keywords*: Korean proverb, cat, symbolic value, cultural footprint

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