**TẠP CHÍ NGHIÊN CỨU NƯỚC NGOÀI  
VNU JOURNAL OF FOREIGN STUDIES**ISSN 2525-2445  
*Xuất bản 01 kỳ/02 tháng*

Ấn phẩm của **Tạp chí Nghiên cứu nước ngoài,** Trường  
Đại học Ngoại ngữ, Đại học Quốc gia Hà Nội. Bản  
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***Giấy phép hoạt động báo chí in***

***Số 550/GP-BTTTT ngày 09/12/2016  
của Bộ Thông tin và Truyền thông***

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**VNU JOURNAL OF FOREIGN STUDIES**Vol.33, No.2, 2017

**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  
*Faculty of Korean Language and Culture, VNU University of Languages and International  
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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