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## Analyzing strategies in the English-Vietnamese translation of foreign affairs texts at Dong Nai Department of External Relations

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### Abstract

*Analyzing strategies in the English-Vietnamese translation is an important language component to be learned by English language learners, especially in the English-Vietnamese (E-V) translation of foreign affairs texts. In Investigating the typical strategies employed in translating diplomatic documents from English into Vietnamese, the study provides effective ways for conveying the meaning of diplomatic texts from English into Vietnamese. The primary data for analysis in this study are mostly sourced from the English diplomatic documents of Dong Nai Department of External Relations, which are classified into four categories. Additionally, the Vietnamese-translated versions of these writings are also included. The underlying framework for interpreting the data is based on the fundamental principle of equivalence, which involves the use of translation procedures by learners. The translation process involves various strategies that can be categorized into different types in the study. In addition, the common errors made by learners in their tasks are examined in the field of the grammatical structures of E-V translations of foreign affairs texts as translation strategies, and some recommendations of appropriate diplomatic text translation strategies for learners are also proposed in the paper.*

**Keywords:** English-Vietnamese diplomatic texts, translation strategies, English-Vietnamese diplomatic texts translation.

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## 1. Introduction

In the context of Vietnam's strong international integration, the demand for foreign languages has increased and the number of people using English has increased significantly thanks to the attention and investment of the State, the agencies, businesses, and individuals for learning English. Therefore, English translation and interpretation become an extremely necessary tool to convey the language and message of the writer and speaker to the reader and listener, especially the translation of documents related to the field of diplomacy in order to serve foreign affairs and national development.

In recent years, there have been international conferences organized to find out general rules for ensuring essential equivalents in the translation process. However, the translation and interpretation of diplomatic documents are not outside the general rules of translation. It requires a thorough understanding of linguistic properties and related topics, and logical

thinking in analyzing the properties and nature of language. The translation of diplomatic documents requires translators to have extensive knowledge of the diplomatic profession, a thorough understanding of the specialized characteristics, and the ability to well cover the use of diplomatic terminology and knowledge of diplomatic writing styles. These are key issues to confirm the accuracy, completeness, and clarity of the documents and diplomatic documents during the translation process. Furthermore, translation is intricately linked to the political domain, and there is a limited number of linguists and translators who are examining the strategies employed in translating E-V documents pertaining to international affairs at the Dong Nai Department of External Relations, with the intention of practical application.

On the other hand, the concept and theory of translation appeared very early in ancient Rome and lasted until the Renaissance. In each period, researchers put forward different principles of translation, but the principles of translation in the XX century can be considered quite complete and used by professional translators. Representing the principles of translation in the twentieth century are the principles of Hatim and Mason (1990) and Mona Baker (1992). The research will follow the theoretical framework from two authors as presented above.

In studying the translation of diplomatic documents, strategies and rules for translation are the most important in both English and Vietnamese. In addition, word arrangement or syntax in the two languages has always played a very important role in clarifying the cases where there is no equivalence between the two languages. On the contrary, to explain all the problems in translating diplomatic texts from English into Vietnamese we should have knowledge not only in linguistics but also in the specialized field of diplomacy.

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1. Previous Studies

The utilization of the translation procedures proposed by Baker (1992) in foreign affairs materials has been a subject of ongoing debate. Proponents of these translation methodologies anticipate a favorable impact on the translation of diplomatic texts.

**Table 1. Summary of previous studies relating on the title of the project**

Sources	Contexts	Research instrument	Key findings
Dang (2020)	The objective of this study was to analyze the translation techniques employed in converting three of O'Henry's stories, namely "An Unfinished Story," "The Furnished Room," and "The Last Leaf," into their Vietnamese counterparts.	A total of 1,617 CDs were gathered from three locations for research purposes. The study employed document analysis as a main research tool.	The results revealed that 18.5% of the total number of CDs, specifically 300 out of 1,617, were translated using translation methodologies. The analysis revealed five distinct strategies: substitution with a more neutral or less emotive term, paraphrasing with a similar term, paraphrasing with unrelated terms, omission, and illustration. The frequency analysis of these tactics indicates that the most commonly employed translation technique is omission, while the least utilized strategy involves substituting a more neutral or less expressive word.

Abdulaziz A. Abanomey & Samar Yakoob Almosa (2023)	This study explores the assessment practices of 98 faculty members of the translation departments of various universities in Arab countries.	Mixed-method study	Data for this preliminary investigation were gathered via a modified iteration of the Approaches to Classroom Assessment Inventory tool. This study highlights the pressing necessity for additional training specifically focused on enhancing the proficiency of faculty members who teach translation courses in the area of Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) literacy. It aids in enhancing translation training and developing more efficient courses.
Arzu Koçak* <i>Hacettepe University, Ankara 06800, Turkey</i>  International Journal of Curriculum and Instruction 11(1) (2019) 256–268	An Analysis of Recognition of Compound Complex Sentences for Fossilized Errors in Teaching Writing (2019)	The empirical study examined the extent to which six hours of remedial teaching instruction enhances the ability to recognize compound-complex sentences in the context of teaching writing.	The data collected from the tests was examined using quantitative methods. The findings indicated that participants had improved sentence structure knowledge at the conclusion of the course compared to their initial level of knowledge at the beginning of the course. Furthermore, the study's findings revealed notable disparities in students' ability to recognize different sentence types, with complicated phrases being the most perplexing for them.

## 2.2. Theoretical Background

### 2.2.1. Definition of translation and translation strategies and diplomatic texts

#### a. Translation

Theorists have provided different definitions for translation. According to Newmark (1988), translation is the skill of replacing a written message and/or statement in one language with the same message and/or statement in another language.

To put it simply, Larson (1984) provides a definition of translation as the act of transferring the meaning of the source language (SL) into the receptor language while keeping the original language but altering the structure.

Translation, as defined by Hatim and Mason (1990), is the process of conveying a message from one language and culture to another, bridging the gap between different forms of communication.

Catford (1980, p. 1) defines translation as the act of replacing a text in one language with a text in another language.

In addition, he (1980, p. 20) provides a definition of translation as the act of substituting written content in one language (SL) with corresponding written content in another language (TL). Larson (1984, p. 3) defines translation as the process of substituting the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc. of the source language with their counterparts in the target language, also known as the receptor language.

#### b. Translation Strategies

According to Hatim and Mason (1997), translation is an act of communication that attempts to relay, across cultural and linguistic boundaries, another act of communication. The definitions provided above are all-encompassing and not specific to any particular case. Nevertheless, the primary emphasis of this study lies in translation procedures. Translation systems possess distinct qualities and advantages. Consequently, we can gain a more precise understanding of these tactics and select the appropriate translation strategy to effectively fulfill the task.

### **c. Diplomatic text**

Diplomatic texts encompass official letters and documents that are frequently employed in diplomatic relations and international affairs between nations. They serve as official national or local documents for exchanging and presenting matters of national or local significance with other countries and localities. Diplomatic correspondence refers to the formal exchange of official documents between countries, cities, or international organizations. This interchange serves the purpose of establishing contacts, arranging visits, extending congratulations, and sharing information.

In the context of globalization, countries are more inclined to develop collaborative and amicable relationships with each other instead of engaging in confrontational situations. To foster positive relationships and articulate their perspectives, countries frequently employ diplomatic correspondence and official documents. It served as a means of nationwide interchange, demonstrating seriousness. The document serves as a repository of the country's independent stance and viewpoint on a specific matter, particularly in the realm of diplomatic communications. It does not possess any legally enforceable significance between nations but mostly serves as a means of information interchange.

The objective of translation is to effectively communicate the original tone and intention of communication while considering the cultural and regional disparities between the source and target languages. Translation facilitates communication between individuals from various linguistic regions.

#### *2.2.2. Views on types of translation and translation strategies*

Throughout the course of translation history, numerous translation notions have been discussed by various translation theorists. These themes include:

Hatim and Mason (1990) state that the act of translating literature requires the exchange of information between the author and the reader. Larson (1984) posits that translation generally transmits the identical meaning as seen by speakers of the source language, while also maintaining the text's dynamism within the normal grammatical structure of the recipient language. In addition, she emphasized that the translator's goal should be to provide a translation that is tailored to the intended readership. This means that the translated text should express the same message as the original material, but in a way that is natural to the target language.

Newmark (1981) regards translation as a discipline that encompasses scientific principles, practical expertise, artistic expression, and a personal passion for effectively communicating concepts in a different language. Hence, translators must possess knowledge. Assess the event to effectively communicate the intended message using suitable language and acceptable

practices. The translation is subjective as translators choose the translation that they feel most attractive.

A translator is an individual who transfers information from one language to another, serving as a connection between two cultures and two languages.

Based on the analysis of the aforementioned theories, text translation can be understood as a cognitive process including decision-making and problem-solving. The translator must carefully watch, recognize, and determine an appropriate solution. Implementing an appropriate translation technique enables translators to effectively communicate information.

Translation can be broadly categorized into two types: literal translation and free translation. A literal translation is a translation that strictly follows the grammatical structure of the original language, commonly referred to as a word-for-word translation. Free translation focuses on conveying the primary concept of the original text while adhering to the natural grammatical structure of the language it is being translated into. A free translation may or may not adhere closely to the structure of the original text.

(1) A literal translation involves altering the structure of the source text to match the target text, while preserving the original form, meaning, phrase, sentence, and writing style to the greatest extent possible. It is frequently employed in the translation of books, autobiographies, and contracts

(2) A free translation aims to convey the original message by modifying its presentation. The objective is to convey the content of the original text to the intended audience as accurately as feasible. The translators have the ability to engage in conversation, elaborate, or exclude parts of the source message in order to preserve the intended meaning. The use of free translation is used when translating news articles, business correspondence, and written pieces in publications.

Generally, the choice of translation method depends on the translator's objective, although a high-quality translation typically incorporates multiple translation approaches.

### **2.3. Translation strategies**

Mona Baker (1992) examines the techniques used to translate specific lexical elements, from one language to another. The strategies of translation, can be used as follows:

#### **+ Translation with similar meaning and structure**

According to Baker (1992), employing this strategy is recommended as the optimal method for conveying roughly equal meanings of idioms or fixed expressions from the source language, which includes lexical items.

Plus The purpose of this method is to gather a specific phrase or idiom in the target language (TL) that can convey a similar meaning to the source language (SL), even if the specific words used in the expression are different.

#### **+ Translation through rephrasing**

The paraphrase approach is employed when the concepts present in the source text (ST) cannot be expressed using the vocabulary of the target language (TL). Instead of seeking a word that is connected to another, paraphrasing can focus on altering some specific words, or entirely on deciphering the meaning of associated terms in the source language, particularly if the terms are complex in terms of semantics. Loan words, when accompanied by explanations,

can sometimes provide a certain degree of precision in conveying the meaning of the source text, known as explanatory translation. Mona Baker categorizes the technique of paraphrasing into two distinct types: paraphrasing using "associated words" and paraphrasing using "unassociated words".

+ *Translation through omission*

It refers to the act of excluding certain expressions or information from a text if they are deemed unimportant for the overall development of the message. This is done to avoid confusing readers with unnecessary explanations. For using this strategy, it is expected that some loss of meaning would occur. Therefore, Baker (1992) suggests that this technique should only be used as a last resort for solving an issue.

+ *Translation through visual representation*

A lexical item that lacks an equivalent in the target language (TL) can be exemplified when the text imposes limitations on length or when the material needs to be concise and focused. This process is not restricted to identifying equivalences above the level of individual words and can also be employed to compensate for the loss of meaning, to restore emotional impact, or to convey stylistic aspects in cases where a direct reproduction of a precise point in the target text may be unattainable.

+ *Translation through addition*

This translation loss technique involves incorporating additional semantic forms into the target text (TT) that are not originally present in the source text (ST). Although the semantic forms of the source text (ST) and target text (TT) may not be identical, this imperfect replication can nevertheless be considered acceptable and efficient due to its ability to assist in translating culturally specific parts that require additional explanations. While it may not be recommended to use this process for translating idioms in general, it could be a reasonable approach for translating exclamations specifically.

+ *Translation through deletion*

Once again, this strategy would not be sufficiently feasible to maintain the idiomatic nuances in translation. Alternatively, this could be beneficial in situations where interpreting a diplomatic text is necessary.

#### **2.4. The Application of translation strategies in literature**

As mentioned before, there are two predominant translation procedures that were commonly employed in the 20th century, namely Hatim and Mason (1990) and Baker (1992).

Examining the application of translation procedures proposed by Hatim and Mason (1990) and Baker (1992) in foreign affairs language materials.

The authors Hatim and Mason (1990): The following principles of translation were provided: Comprehending the substance of the source text necessitates the study of grammar and vocabulary, as well as access to specialist information and an intentional approach. The process of translating involves organizing lexical meanings, arranging grammatical meanings, and considering rhetorical elements such as pragmatic and deductive meanings. The assessment of the target language involves assessing the readability of the translation, adhering to the genre standards of the target language, and evaluating the suitability of a translation for specific objectives.

Mona Baker (1992:26-42) identifies eight strategies that competent translators can employ to resolve translation problems: Translation can be understood in a wider context, encompassing many approaches such as employing neutral or less emotive words, substituting cultural elements, adopting words from another language, paraphrasing, skipping some parts, or providing examples.

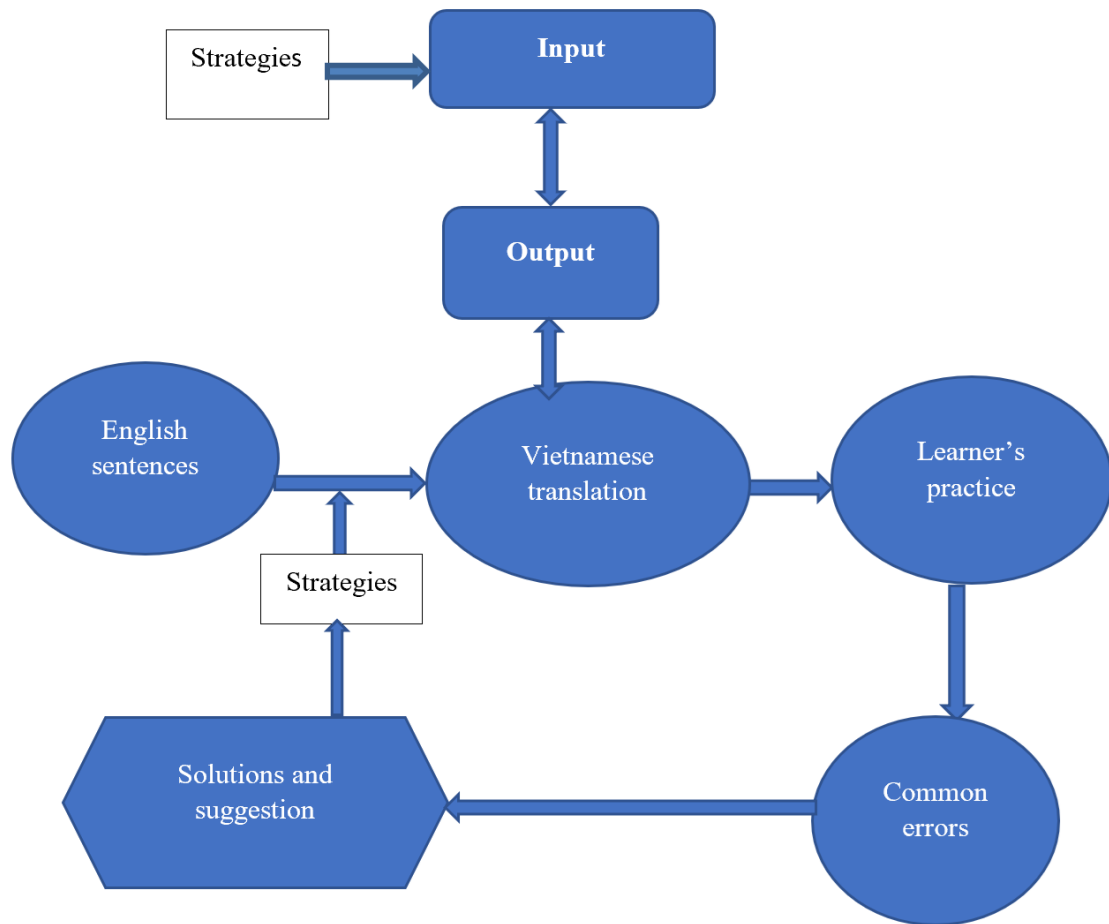
Each theorist presents their own set of procedures, although Hatim and Mason (1990) and Baker (1992) included the most often used strategies in their taxonomy of translation strategies because they are the techniques adopted by professional translators. This concept implies that strategies are not just a collection of procedures, but may also be evaluated by skilled translators to assess their effectiveness.

Furthermore, during my research on the translation process of diplomatic documents, I have found that it is permissible for it to be based on linguistic rules, which is in line with the general rule. The role of language is vital in identifying a situation when two or more languages are not equal. However, it is insufficient to attribute all translation difficulties solely to linguistic characteristics; a comprehensive understanding of the specialized domain of diplomacy is also necessary.

One potential distinction between the methodologies of the two researchers might be found in Newmark's (1988) approach to translating based on semantics and communication, specifically in relation to the types of texts being translated. Newmark (1988:39-42) incorporates Bühler's three primary language functions and suggests three text categories derived from them: 'expressive,' 'informative,' and 'vocative' texts. He suggests using semantic translation for expressive literature as it captures the artistic essence of the source text, whereas communicative translation, which prioritizes the target language, is more suitable for informative and vocative texts. Additional primary translation techniques, as discussed by Newmark (1988) and Larson (1984), exhibit similarities. For instance, Newmark's word-for-word translation may be equivalent to Larson's highly literal or literal translation due to the fact that this translation approach focuses on individual words. The advantage of this method lies in its ability to facilitate the study of the linguistic elements of the target language.

## **2.5. Conceptual framework**

Analyzing strategies for translating E-V diplomatic documents at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Dong Nai province through distributing the survey form to the 20 learners in order to understand the learners' personal information, and the E-V translation tasks to do in the English translation and interpretation skills class of 2023 organized by Dong Nai Department of External Relations. We will identify the common errors made by learners in the grammatical structures of E-V translations of foreign affairs texts, and propose some recommendations for appropriate diplomatic text translation strategies for learners.



**Figure 1. Conceptual framework**

### **3. Methodology**

#### **3.1. Research design**

This study aims to focus on identifying and exploring the strategies of E-V translation regarding learners' practice of translating diplomatic texts from English into Vietnamese, so a descriptive, analyzed research can be appropriate. A mixed methods approach which combines elements of quantitative research and qualitative research was adopted to the study to strengthen and supplement the conclusions of the study. For the mixed methods approach with the type of an embedded design, the researcher collects and analyzes both types of data (data source and learners' data collection) at the same time, but within a larger qualitative design. Following the design, the researcher's observation, data source from the office, and a task for E-V translation (See appendix) to distribute to 20 participants were used to collect data. The data collection is designed based on the theories in the literature review to find out the information about the learners' common errors in this class. The combination of the two instruments enables the researcher to gain a more comprehensive understanding of different strategies in the translation process in practice.

This study hopefully attempts to answer the following questions:

- (1) What are the translation strategies employed in diplomatic text translation?



(2) What are the typical errors made by learners in the grammatical structures of E-V translations of foreign affairs texts, and what are some recommendations to address them?

The study was conducted at Dong Nai Department in the year 2023-2024, the high time of implementing the research. To be ready for the improvement of learners' translation skills, the original diplomatic text versions were used simultaneously to compare and contrast the standard and the pilot one.

Common topics about Research on the translation and assessment of diplomatic texts, which consists of 290 sentences, can be divided into two main groups:

1/ The diplomatic documents and texts for exchange between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign diplomatic missions and localities from the foreign administrative offices in Vietnam are Notes, Official Letters, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU);

2/ Consular documents related to the field of legal translation such as Birth, marriage, and death certificates, visas, passports, and assistance to arrested citizens.

As discussed, the E-V translation practice in the diplomatic texts and more meaningful interactions among learners about the common issues of translation strategies will provide them with more knowledge of diplomatic contexts.

In Dong Nai province, the table below shows the Descriptive statistics of data and the participants in Dong Nai province.

**Table 2. Descriptive statistics of data and the participants in Dong Nai province**

Data source and data collection	Number of sentences used for research (Data Source)	Number of classes participated	Number of learners as sample
Data available in the office	290	1	20

*Source: From Dong Nai Department of External Relations*

### 3.2. Sample and sampling procedures

The subjects of the study were 290 English and Vietnamese diplomatic sentences with 20 participants (11 females and 9 males) working at various offices in Dong Nai province. These participants have the same qualification background. Their learning experience (ranging from 1 to 3 years, 3- 5 years, and over 5 years) of working in their offices related to the field of translation. Table 2. demonstrates the demographic information of the participants.

**Table 3. The demographic of the participants in the study**

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	9	45%
	Female	11	55%
Age	25- 30	8	40%
	31- 40	12	60%
Education degree	B.A	19	95%
	M.A	1	5%
Working experience (years)	1-3 years	14	70%

	4 - 5 years	4	20%
	>5 years	2	10%

### ***3.3. Research instruments***

The research instruments in the study include the data with 290 sentences available in the office used for the researcher's studying of translation strategies in the data source and translation tasks for learners in translation class from December, 2023 to April, 2024.

The instrument used in this study was a sentence analysis with 290 sentences in the data source. More importantly, with the analysis designed, the study focuses on the grammatical sentence structures containing the items that collected the data on the data collection.

The participants' demographic information was collected from the questionnaire to obtain more insights into the learners who participated in the study. The tasks were also used to allow the researcher to get in-depth information from the participants about their common errors in Vietnamese translation.

### ***3.4. Data collection procedure***

The translation task was administered to a group of 20 participants. The participants' responses to their translations were collected during a single class session lasting approximately two hours on December 31, 2023. For each assignment, every learner was required to translate 15 sentences from English to Vietnamese in diplomatic texts.

The survey forms were designed to gather data for the study. The survey forms are handed to a total of 20 learners from the English Translation and Interpretation Skills 2023 program, which is offered by the Dong Nai Department of External Relations. Out of these learners, 11 are female and 9 are male. The researcher distributed the survey form to these learners in order to ascertain the hurdles they faced while interpreting diplomatic documents.

### ***3.5. Data analysis procedure***

The objective of this study is to assess the caliber of translations of diplomatic papers by surveying participants of the English translation and interpretation skills course in 2023, which is being conducted by the Dong Nai Department of External Relations in Dong Nai province. The data was evaluated using an Excel tool to profile the participants and identify their common errors in their translation work.

In order to determine an effective technique for translating diplomatic documents, the author distributed questionnaires and assigned tasks to learners, aiming to gather information in the current situation. The research methods encompass the processes of comparing, synthesizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from statistical data through the use of reasoning.

The survey questionnaires were distributed to the 20 learners in the English translation and interpretation skills class of 2023 during the initial session. The survey forms were filled out at the unit and the respondents' responses were returned two hours later to provide them sufficient time to finish them. During the second phase, following the analysis of the gathered data, the researcher analyzed the errors made by 20 learners who encountered the greatest challenges in translating and reading diplomatic documents. Throughout the survey, the

researcher made adjustments to the information and translation strategies in accordance with the feedback provided by the respondents.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The study has been meticulously crafted to address the following guiding questions, in line with its intended objectives.

**Research question 1:** Do sentence structures change in the E-V translation of foreign affairs materials from English to Vietnamese?

4.1. Type 1: Type 1 – Diplomatic notes of conference invitation in the E - V translation (N=154)

The distribution of sentence structure pairs (S, Cpd, Cpx, Cpd-Cpx) in the data source as follows:

Example 1: Simple English sentence structures and Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Ho Chi Minh City avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Dong Nai Party Committee and the Department of External Relations of Dong Nai Province the assurances of its highest consideration<sup>(1)</sup>.

(2) Vietnamese translation version: Tổng Lãnh sự quán Hàn Quốc tại Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh nhân dịp này một lần nữa xin gửi đến Văn phòng Tỉnh ủy Đồng Nai và Sở Ngoại vụ tỉnh Đồng Nai lời cảm ơn và lời chào trân trọng<sup>(2)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of simple English sentence structures and Vietnamese translation versions in the data source is 116, occupying 75.32%.

Example 2: Simple English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) Our modern relationship is as strong as our historical relationship. It has the support of our founding fathers - President Ho Chi Minh and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru<sup>(3)</sup>.

(2) Hai nước luôn tăng cường, bồi đắp mối quan hệ hữu nghị truyền thông tốt đẹp mà Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh và Thủ tướng Jawaharlal Nehru đã tạo dựng và vun đắp<sup>(4)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of simple English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version of the data source is 2, occupying 1.30%.

Example 3: Compound English sentence structures and simple Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) India is globally emerging thanks to the contribution of talented CEOs and industrialists across sectors, and cooperation is the need of the hour as India provides a large market, affordable education and research capabilities, IT, and healthcare training apart from benefits from a large flow of Indian tourists<sup>(5)</sup>.

(2) Ấn Độ đang nổi lên trên toàn cầu nhờ sự đóng góp của các CEOs và nhà công nghiệp tài năng trong các lĩnh vực. Hợp tác là điều rất cần thiết trên cơ sở Ấn Độ có một thị trường rộng lớn và không lồ cho các lĩnh vực, một nền giáo dục hợp lý với khả năng nghiên cứu &

<sup>1</sup>. E1-4, 1- 2019.482.TLSQ HAN QUOC.

<sup>2</sup>. V1-4, 1- 2019.482.TLSQ HAN QUOC.

<sup>3</sup>. E1-14, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO.

<sup>4</sup>. V1-14, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO.

<sup>5</sup>. E1- 80, 1-2023.223.TLS AN DO.

phát triển, ngành CNTT thuộc top đầu thế giới, khả năng đào tạo y tế ngoài những lợi ích từ lượng lớn khách du lịch Ấn Độ đi du lịch nước ngoài<sup>(6)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of compound English sentence structures and simple Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 2, occupying 1.30%.

Example 4: Compound English sentence structures and compound Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) We hope you can be a part of our event, and I look forward to your registration<sup>(7)</sup>.

(2) Chúng tôi hy vọng bạn có thể tham gia sự kiện và tôi rất mong nhận được sự đăng ký của bạn<sup>(8)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of compound English sentence structures and compound Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 4, occupying 2.60%.

Example 5: Complex English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) While things have become better, it will take some time for the world and our people to come back to normal<sup>(9)</sup>.

(2) Tuy công tác phòng, chống dịch đã đạt những kết quả khả quan, chúng ta vẫn sẽ cần một khoảng thời gian cho thế giới và người dân quay về trạng thái bình thường<sup>(10)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of complex English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 30, occupying 19.48%.

*(From example 1 to example 5: The data source from the office of DONADER).*

4.2. Type 2 – Diplomatic notes of greetings and working in cooperation in the E - V translation (N = 72)

The distribution of sentence structure pairs (S, Cpd, Cpx, Cpd-Cpx) in the data source analyzed as follows:

Example 1: Simple English sentence structures and Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) However, the value of Indonesia — Vietnam trade and investment has lots of potential to be reached<sup>(11)</sup>.

(2) Tuy nhiên, kim ngạch thương mại và đầu tư Indonesia - Việt Nam vẫn còn rất nhiều tiềm năng có thể đạt được<sup>(12)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of simple English sentence structures and Vietnamese translation versions in the data source is 42, occupying 58.33%.

Example 2: Compound English sentence structures and compound Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) Thirty years ago, there were almost no exchanges between Korea and Vietnam, but the two countries relations have developed incredibly until today<sup>(13)</sup>.

<sup>6</sup>. V1- 80, 1-2023.223.TLS AN DO.

<sup>7</sup>. E1-11,1-2021.57.TLS SINGAPORE.

<sup>8</sup>. V1-11,1-2021.57.TLS SINGAPORE.

<sup>9</sup>. E1-22, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO.

<sup>10</sup>. V1-22, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO.

<sup>11</sup>. E2-11, 2-2019.178.TLSQ INDONESIA.

<sup>12</sup>. 2V-11, 2-2019.178.TLSQ INDONESIA.

<sup>13</sup>. E2-102, 2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO.

(2) Ba mươi năm trước, Việt Nam và Hàn Quốc hầu như không có giao lưu nào, nhưng đến hiện tại giao lưu hai nước đã phát triển ngoài sức tưởng tượng<sup>(14)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of Compound English sentence structures and compound Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 2, occupying 2.78%.

Example 3: Complex English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) The Consulate would greatly appreciate any assistance the Department can provide in facilitating this program<sup>(15)</sup>.

(2) Tổng Lãnh sự quán đánh giá cao sự hỗ trợ của Quý Sở trong việc tạo điều kiện thuận lợi cho chuyến thăm này<sup>(16)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of complex English sentence structures and complex Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 24, occupying 33.33%.

Example 4: Compound-complex English sentence structures and compound-complex Vietnamese translation structures version:

(1) Through the visit, I was pleased to learn from Your Excellency that Korea has been the top investor in Dong Nai Province in terms of both the number of projects and the volume of capital, and almost Korean enterprises in the province are doing well. That should be partly attributed to Your Excellency's and the provincial Government's commitment and support extended to Korean nationals and enterprises in the province; for that I wish to convey my deep gratitude<sup>(17)</sup>.

(2) Qua chuyến thăm, tôi rất vui mừng được Quý Ngài cho biết Hàn Quốc đứng đầu trong các quốc gia và vùng lãnh thổ đầu tư vào tỉnh Đồng Nai cả về số dự án lẫn khối lượng vốn đầu tư, và hầu hết doanh nghiệp Hàn Quốc đầu tư vào tỉnh hoạt động sản xuất kinh doanh rất hiệu quả. Được như thế một phần là nhờ vào sự quan tâm và hỗ trợ của Ngài Chủ tịch và Chính quyền tỉnh dành cho các công dân và doanh nghiệp Hàn Quốc trên địa bàn tỉnh; vì lý do đó tôi xin gửi lời cảm tạ sâu sắc<sup>(18)</sup>.

The frequency of examples of compound English sentence structures and compound Vietnamese translation structures version in the data source is 4, occupying 5.56%.

*(From example 1 to example 4: The data source is from the office of DONADER).*

In the E-V translation strategies employed in diplomatic texts, the sentence structures used in the two languages were analyzed in the four tables above. These tables demonstrate that the majority of sentence structures translated from English into Vietnamese are the same sentence structures with identical phrase kinds and patterns. Only a limited number of sentences changed their sentence structures during the process of E-V translation. This is consistent with Baker's theory in E-V translation.

#### **Table 4. Common strategies suggested in translating English diplomatic texts into Vietnamese**

N= 290 (pairs of E- V sentences)

<sup>14</sup>. V2-102, 2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO.

<sup>15</sup>. E2-7, 2-2019.109.TLSQ HOA KY.

<sup>16</sup>. V2-7, 2-2019.109.TLSQ HOA KY.

<sup>17</sup>. E2-99, -2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO.

<sup>18</sup>. V2-99, -2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO.

No.	Strategies used in E-V translation of diplomatic texts	Examples of English Sentences (Source language)	Examples of Vietnamese sentences (Target Language)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Translation with similar meaning and form (the same sentence structures) Mona Baker (1992)	The Indian Consulate will share more information once the components get finalized. (E1-60, 1-2022.322.TLS AN DO)	Tổng Lãnh sự quán Ấn Độ sẽ gửi thêm thông tin khi lịch trình được hoàn chỉnh. (V1-60, 1-2022.322.TLS AN DO)	286	98.62
2	Translation with similar meaning but dissimilar form (different sentence structures) Hatim and Mason (1990) and Baker (1992):	Our modern relationship is as strong as our historical relationship. It has the support of our founding fathers - President Ho Chi Minh and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. (E1-14, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO)	Hai nước luôn tăng cường, bồi đắp mối quan hệ hữu nghị truyền thống tốt đẹp mà Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh và Thủ tướng Jawaharlal Nehru đã tạo dựng và vun đắp. (V1-14, 1-2021.114.TLS AN DO)	4	1.38
3	Translation by deletion Mona Baker (1992)	I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration and wish Dong Nai Province ever-growing success. (E2-103, 2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO)	Trân trọng kính chào và kính chúc tỉnh Đồng Nai luôn thịnh vượng và phát triển không ngừng. (V2-103, 2-2021.TLSQ HAN QUOC – TCO)	11	3.79
4	Translation by illustration and paraphrase Mona Baker (1992) Bergen (n. D.), Chesterman (1997)	It is feel that more engagement between industries of both sides will lead to more trade and investment. A draft agenda for the business meeting is enclosed. The esteemed province may like to modify.	Chúng tôi thấy rằng sự kết nối nhiều hơn giữa các ngành công nghiệp của cả hai bên sẽ giúp thúc đẩy thương mại và đầu tư một cách mạnh mẽ. Chương trình dự kiến được đính kèm.	16	5.52

		(E1-74, 1-2023.202.TLS AN DO)	(V1-74, 1-2023.202.TLS AN DO)		
5	Translation by addition / using borrowing words / modifying coherence Mona Baker (1992) Bergen (n. D.), Chesterman (1997)	I highly appreciate the affection and deep concern of the Chairman and the Board of Directors for the lives and studies of Cambodian students in particular and international students in the province in particular. (E2-22, 2-2020.093.TLSQ CAMPUCHIA (TV)	Tôi trân trọng đánh giá cao tình cảm và sự quan tâm sâu sắc của Ngài Chủ tịch cùng Ban lãnh đạo tỉnh đối với cuộc sống và việc học tập của các em học sinh, sinh viên Campuchia nói riêng và sinh viên quốc tế tại tỉnh nói chung. (V2-22, 2-2020.093.TLSQ CAMPUCHIA (TV)	37	12.76
6	Translation by changing emphasis Bergen (n. D.), Chesterman (1997)	The Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore in Ho Chi Minh City avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of External Relations in Dong Nai Province, the assurances of its highest consideration. (E4-16, 4-2022.SCG.106.21.TLS SINGAPORE.CONG HAM DE NGHI CHAO XA GIAO LDT - CXG CM BTTU DN)	Nhân dịp này, Tổng Lãnh sự quán Nước Cộng hòa Singapore tại Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh xin gửi đến Sở Ngoại vụ tỉnh Đồng Nai lời cảm ơn chân thành và lời chào trân trọng. (V4-16, 4-2022.SCG.106.21.TLS SINGAPORE.CONG HAM DE NGHI CHAO XA GIAO LDT - CXG CM BTTU DN)	5	1.72

Table 4. presents common strategies used in the translation of the data source suggested by translating English diplomatic texts into Vietnamese (290 pairs of E- V sentences). It can be seen that cohesion, as a constituent of textual organization, pertains to the connections among various elements of a text, encompassing the associations between words, grammar, and other facets. Textual cohesion refers to the process of connecting different textual elements, such as

words and expressions, to the general structure of the text, rather than emphasizing single-word categories.

The translators' proficiency and accumulated knowledge would ascertain their capacity to recognize and uphold cohesiveness and coherence between the source language (SL) and target language (TL). Translators must ensure the coherence of the source text (ST) to effectively express equivalent values in the target text (TT).

To do this, one can analyze and employ different methods of coherence in the English language, as described by Baker (1992) following the research of Halliday and Hasan (1976). The devices mentioned include "reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion."

In general, from the analysis and statistics, the findings also reveal that the translation strategies from Mona Baker (1992) are used the most in the diplomatic texts.

**Research Question 2:** What are the typical errors made by learners in the grammatical structures of E-V translations of foreign affairs texts, and what are some recommendations to address them?

*Table 4. Common errors made by learners in translating English diplomatic texts into Vietnamese (20 learners x 15 sentences/ each = 300 sentences)*

No.	Learners' common errors (Categories)	Examples of learners' Vietnamese sentences in their translation tasks	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Wrong words / Spelling mistakes, leading to misunderstanding in Vietnamese translation version	A tentative festival chart along with day-by-day programs is enclosed. (E1-59, 1-2022.322.TLS AN DO) "Kèm theo đây là <u>biểu đồ lễ hội dự kiến</u> cùng với các chương trình hàng ngày."	161	53.67
2	Style – Using informal instead of formal	The aforementioned festival will have multiple components in areas of trade, investment, culture, tourism, IT, healthcare and higher education. (E1-53, 1-2022.322.TLS AN DO) "Lễ hội nêu trên <u>sẽ có nhiều nội dung</u> về các lĩnh vực thương mại, đầu tư, văn hóa, du lịch, CNTT, y tế và giáo dục đại học."	57	19.00
3	Punctuation	On the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (September 2, 1945 - September 2, 2021), on behalf of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Cambodia	12	4.0



		<p>in City. Ho Chi Minh and on my own behalf, I respectfully send my best and deepest congratulations to Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>((E2-73, 2-2021.374.TLSQ CAMPUCHIA - TCMQK-TV)</p> <p><i>“Nhân dịp kỷ niệm 76 năm Ngày quốc khánh nước Cộng hòa Xã hội Chủ nghĩa Việt Nam (02/9/1945 - 02/9/2021) thay mặt Tổng Lãnh sự quán Vương quốc Campuchia tại TPHCM tôi xin gửi lời chúc tốt đẹp nhất đến ông Chủ tịch.”</i></p>		
4	Capitalization	<p>I highly appreciate the affection and deep concern of the Chairman and the Board of Directors for the lives and studies of Cambodian students in particular and international students in the province in particular.</p> <p>(E2-22, 2-2020.093.TLSQ CAMPUCHIA (TV))</p> <p><i>“Tôi đánh giá cao tình cảm và sự quan tâm sâu sắc của <u>chủ tịch</u> và <u>bản giám hiệu</u> đối với đời sống, học tập của sinh viên <u>campuchia</u> nói riêng và sinh viên quốc tế trên địa bàn tỉnh nói riêng.”</i></p>	7	2.33
5	Using unnecessary words in the Vietnamese translation version	<p>The Australian Consulate-General avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Departments of External Relations in Cities and provinces the assurances of its highest consideration.</p> <p>(E3-14, 3-2023.157.23. TLS UC. CONG HAM THU MOI THAM DU CHUONG TRINH AM THUC UC - TM TIEC CD)</p> <p><i>“Tổng Lãnh sự quán Úc <u>tân dụng cơ hội này</u> để gia hạn cho các Phòng Đối ngoại ở các Thành phố và các tỉnh sự đảm bảo về sự xem xét cao nhất.”</i></p>	86	28.67

Table 4. displays the common errors made by learners when translating English diplomatic materials into Vietnamese.

The predominant mistake is the utilization of incorrect vocabulary, accounting for 53.67% of errors. The second prevalent mistake case represents 28.67% of the total. The third situation, characterized by several faults, pertains to style. Learners tend to employ a casual style instead of a formal one. Two additional cases were discovered, representing 4.0% and 2.33% of the total.

#### **4.2. Discussion**

This chapter focuses on the key issues faced by learners in the class offered by Dong Nai Department of External Relations, particularly their difficulties in interpreting papers. Through the study of translation tasks submitted to the researcher, as well as the findings of the learners' translation tasks, it is evident that the learners possess a profound understanding of the significance of translation. The prevalence of their frequent errors in translating diplomatic texts indicates the necessity for them to focus on grammatical elements, particularly the systematic functional grammar component. This part also explores supplementary strategies that learners might employ to enhance the quality of translation in the classroom.

The fundamental linguistic perspectives and theories of diplomatic text translation have been thoroughly studied, examined, assessed, and consolidated into a systematic framework. This framework serves as a theoretical basis for choosing, modifying, and suggesting suitable models for the critical evaluation of Vietnamese-English translation in various contexts and applications.

The purpose of this study is to gather information about the current state of translation and evaluate the quality of translation among learners in Dong Nai province. This will be done through the use of questionnaires and tasks. The goal is to identify the areas where learners struggle in applying translation theory and practice, specifically in strategic models of Vietnamese-English translation.

The results provide a pragmatic foundation for analyzing, assessing, modifying, and suggesting models that are appropriate for the current situations and circumstances in Dong Nai province.

The research conducted on the initial implementation of translation strategy models, specifically in the context of systematic functional grammar, for Vietnamese-English translations in diplomatic texts has revealed both the benefits and drawbacks of these models. This research aims to propose alternative models for E-V translation that cater to different purposes.

The research has assessed and identified viable and suitable strategic models for translating diplomatic texts from Vietnamese to English. This evaluation is based on theoretical foundations and analysis of practical situations. The findings contribute to enhancing the quality of translation activities, particularly in the Department of External Relations and various colleges and universities, including the Faculty of International Relations in Dong Nai Province and nationwide.

### **5. Conclusion**

Up to this point, this study has mostly focused on regulating valuable sources in translation studies in order to discover the methodologies for translating English diplomatic papers at

DONADER into Vietnamese. The study utilizes translation theories proposed by renowned linguists, along with qualitative and descriptive methods, to analyze the semantic and syntactic characteristics of diplomatic notes and letters in both the source language (SL) and target language (TL). The research aims to investigate and compare the equivalence between English sentence structures and their Vietnamese translations. Regarding data analysis, it involves developing effective techniques to translate English diplomatic documents in four different contexts into Vietnamese. The comments are derived from the commendable discoveries highlighted in the preceding chapter.

The translation theories proposed by Hatim and Baker (1990) and Chesterman (1997) are successfully applied in this particular circumstance. Translators must develop effective ways of translating diplomatic texts between languages. Essentially, data analysis involves the methods of converting information into understandable forms: Translation with parallel meaning and structure (same sentence structures), Deletion-based translation, illustration-based translation, and paraphrase-based translation. Translation can be achieved by using the methods of adding, borrowing words, adjusting coherence, and shifting emphasis.

The utilization of paraphrasing as a means of resolving the issue of inconsistent translation units across different languages (Hatim & Munday, 2004) is likely the main reason for the frequent use of this technique compared to other strategies. Possible explanations for this phenomenon include the use of paraphrasing as a means of expressing source items in various forms of the target language, and the improvement of translation wording which can enhance the quality of exclamatory expressions, resulting in final edits to further enhance and perfect the translated texts.

### **5.1. Summary of the main findings**

This chapter focuses on the primary challenges encountered by translators working in the Departments of Foreign Affairs and the class when interpreting papers. The results of the E-V translation tasks from the learners reveal that these translators possess a profound understanding of the significance of translation. Most of their opinions assert that a diplomatic text translation requires expertise and meticulous attention to the grammatical component, particularly focusing on the systematic functional grammar feature. Nevertheless, the outcomes were unsatisfactory due to the multitude of obstacles they faced.

The present state of translating diplomatic documents at the Departments of Foreign Affairs nationwide and within the class still presents numerous unresolved issues that require further research and discussion to devise precise solutions that can assist translators in converting the source language into the target language. The adversary demonstrates precision. Hence, it is imperative for local foreign affairs agencies and learners to thoroughly examine and establish a uniform level of excellence in translating diplomatic documents, adhering to a precise set of criteria. Furthermore, they should proactively provide suggestions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assistance. The foreign affairs documents must implement the most efficient translation approach that is appropriate for the economic, political, cultural, and social aspects of each region.

### **5.2. Implications**

As presented above, translation strategy models are developed as a direct outcome of the research:

1/ Presently, translation models are being implemented for learners, officials, and civil servants at the Departments of External Relations as well as agencies and sectors, and universities and colleges, specifically in the Faculty of International Relations, located in various provinces and cities nationwide.

2/ The project's research findings have several applications in both scientific and practical settings. This theory is an essential component of the interpretation program in professional interpreter training courses. This course is highly beneficial for translation collaborators working in agencies and units.

3/ The evaluation approach for strategic diplomatic document translation is anticipated to be widely used in departments, agencies, universities, and colleges in Dong Nai Province, and subsequently extended for nationwide implementation. The Dong Nai Department of External Relations will be responsible for carrying out these plans.

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Source: The data used for analyzing extracted from the office of DONADER