

**Wishes on the occasion of birthday, wedding and new year's holiday (or Christmas) in British and Vietnamese culture: a comparative study \ Lời cầu chúc nhân dịp sinh nhật, cưới hỏi và lễ năm mới (hoặc giáng sinh) trong văn hóa Việt và Anh: một nghiên cứu so sánh. M.A Thesis Linguistics: 60 22 15 \ Phạm Thị Anh Đào ; Supervisor: Assoc. Prof.Dr. Nguyễn Văn Độ**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis discusses some similarities and differences in English and Vietnamese ways of extending a wish. The focus of the analysis is on the content of expressions used in wishing and non-verbal components of wishes, social factors having influence on extending a wish and some cultural differences in extending wishes in Vietnam and Britain. The data for this analysis are provided by the survey questionnaires that elicit wishes on three occasions (birthday, wedding, and New Year/Christmas) to five different addressees, (a close friend, a colleague, an acquaintance, a brother/sister, and a boss). 50 informants (25 English and 25 Vietnamese native speakers) have taken part in this elicitation. The content of expressions used in wishing has been analyzed in relation to social-cultural and social factors, such as age, occupation, gender, and living area. The findings of the study indicate that the Vietnamese give the highest priority to family membership when they convey their wishes, whereas the English prioritize social relationships. The analysis of the data has revealed differences in the rating of occasions for wishing; thus Christmas is the most special occasion to the English for extending one's wishes whereas to the Vietnamese such occasion is wedding. The English and the Vietnamese also differ in the ways they complement their wishes; this varies depended on occasions and role relationships.

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