

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

A. Brief Introduction

- Writer's name : Nguyễn Thị Quỳnh Hoa
- Title of Thesis: *Structure and Meaning of English Inversion versus Vietnamese*
- Field: Linguistics . Code: 5. 04. 08
- Training foundation: College of Social Sciences & Humanities, VNU, Hanoi

B. Main Content

- *Aims and Objectives:*

This thesis aims at clarifying the nature of English inversion on the domains of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Based on the principles of traditional linguistics, the thesis explores the concepts and categories of modern linguistics in the investigation of its objectives with a view to proving that inversion is not a purely syntactic phenomenon. Besides, the thesis shows an attempt to systematize different views concerning the problem of Vietnamese inversion. Another purpose is to provide Vietnamese learners of English with essential knowledge about English inversion in order to help them use English structures more effectively in communication.

- *Research methods:*

This study, which carries out a contrastive analysis, makes use of the descriptive qualitative method and the deductive method; the former method plays the guiding role.

- *Findings and Conclusions:*

This thesis systematizes and describes in detail all the patterns of English inversion in declarative sentences. It also examines three functions of English inversion: the presentative function, the emphatic function and the cohesive function. These are realizations of some "non-propositional" nuances of sentence meaning.

Most English inversion structures are found in formal, literary, oratory or journalistic styles. Many of them are results of the tendency to create harmony and balance in order to add beauty to the language.

The choice of inversion structures reflects locutionary subjectivity. This is the self-expression of the locutionary agents in their use of language.

The one-way contrastive analysis of the thesis shows that Vietnamese uses a wide range of structures in interpreting the functions of English inversion.

The differences between English and Vietnamese lie mainly on the domain of syntactic structures as well as the syntactic roles of sentence components. In many cases, the Vietnamese translational equivalents convey the English informative content by resorting to a diverse use of lexical devices.

The similarities between the two languages are clearly shown in the pattern "Prepositional Phrase + Verb + Noun Phrase", especially with intransitive verbs of existence and appearance. Both languages are likely to place at the sentence-final position a noun phrase which denotes an entity being introduced into discourse. In English and Vietnamese sentences, the initial position plays an important part in showing emphasis and cohesion. In both languages, there is a tendency to move a weighty or long, complex subject to the end of the sentence.

When English inversion is translated into Vietnamese, there are three types of translational equivalents, namely: syntactic-semantic-pragmatic equivalents, syntactic-pragmatic equivalents and semantic-pragmatic equivalents; among these, the third type occupies the highest rate. One inversion structure can have one, two or three translational equivalents.

Supervisor's Signature



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trần Hữu Mạnh

Dotoral Student's Signature



Nguyễn Thị Quỳnh Hoa