

## On the Shift of Parts of Speech in Prepositional Meaning in English-Vietnamese Translation

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### Abstract

Exploring the shift in meanings of translating prepositions from English to Vietnamese, the study, besides analyzing the cases of the changes in meanings of prepositions, aims to discuss a general variety of meanings of English prepositions. The methods of analysis and synthesis of theories from the available data on prepositions as well as the methods of classifying and systematizing prepositions were applied to English-Vietnamese translation. From the collected data, this study has revealed 6 cases of the shift in meanings of prepositions and the characteristics of multiple meanings of prepositions. In the course of translation, contextual meanings are used in order to convey the meanings appropriately in the Vietnamese style. The research paper can make some contribution to the teaching of translation and make it a reference material for English learners.

**Keywords:** *prepositions, translation, English, Vietnamese, the shift in meanings, multi-meaning*

### 1. Introduction

Prepositions in English have some similarities with those in Vietnamese. However, there are cases where prepositions are used differently between two languages, especially in different contexts, leading to different meanings in translation. The phenomenon of changing the meaning of prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese sometimes confuses translators due to the habit of translating from Vietnamese to English in a single sense, making language expressions unnatural and difficult to understand. Flexibility when translating prepositions will help translators convey the content of the translation accurately, avoiding translation errors about prepositions.

Therefore, the correct use of prepositions is very important because people use them to indicate the action and details of what people are going to convey. Understanding prepositions not only helps to use English naturally but also helps to translate documents and texts correctly (*The Key to English Prepositions 1, Collier-Macmillan International, 1964*). However, many learners in Vietnam find it difficult to translate prepositions correctly in many different contexts.

In addition, English learners often tend to translate languages according to their mother tongue. Therefore, they need to realize that there is no such thing as translating an exact preposition in

a single sense from English to Vietnamese and vice versa. We know that sometimes we have to add or subtract prepositions when translating a sentence from one language to another. Moreover, Vietnamese prepositions would have some meanings similar to English, so the translation of prepositions needs to be carefully guided for learners so that they can recognize this problem and know the appropriate prepositions to use in different situations to avoid errors when using.

In short, to use English prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese correctly, learners need to know the phenomena of prepositional meaning change when translating from English to Vietnamese, as well as the phenomenon of multiple meanings of a preposition in different contexts. There are no universal rules for using prepositions, and learners should not directly translate prepositions into their native language since prepositions are used differently in different languages. As mentioned above, it is very necessary to study the phenomenon of prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese.

## 2. Literature review

### a) Domestic research

In Vietnam, there are topics related to prepositions such as:

- Tran, V. D. (1997). *Cách dùng giới từ Anh ngữ*, Nhà Xuất bản Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.
- Tran, Q. H. (2001). *Nghiên cứu giới từ định vị theo hướng ngữ dụng trên cứ liệu tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt*, Master Thesis of Science in Literature, University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Hanoi National University.
- Nguyen, C. H. (2001), *Nghiên cứu ngữ pháp và ngữ nghĩa của giới từ tiếng Anh đối chiếu với tiếng Việt*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Hanoi National University.
- Nguyen, T. T. H. (2020), *Giới từ định vị tiếng Anh (at, in, on) và các đơn vị tương đương trong tiếng Việt*, Doctoral Thesis, University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Ho Chi Minh City National University.

### b) International research

In countries around the world, there are materials related to prepositions such as:

- Collier-Macmillan International (1964) – *The Key to English Prepositions 1*, Collier-Macmillan Limited, London, v.
- Seth Lindstromberg (2010) – *English Prepositions Explained*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Tom Hutch (2015) - *150 Everyday Uses of Prepositions in English*, Learning Express.
- Jean Yates (2020) - *Barron's ESL Proficiency Series: Prepositions*, Kaplan, Inc., Barron's Educational Series.

Researches and works related to prepositions mentioned above, whether in the domestic or foreign scope, have partly provided useful content and materials for students who want to learn about prepositions. As Tran (1997) showed that prepositions could follow verbs, adjectives, and nouns and would perform different functions, and at the same time shows the general pattern of prepositional meaning in English – Vietnamese translation. The Ph.D. thesis of Tran (2001) identified the pragmatic factors affecting the choice of locative prepositions. The Ph.D. thesis of Nguyen (2001) has shown the comparison of English and Vietnamese prepositions in terms of grammatical characteristics so that it can be applied to the analysis of errors of Vietnamese people when learning English prepositions. The Ph.D. thesis of Nguyen (2020) analyzed the phenomenon of multi-meaning of the English preposition “in” from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. The Ph.D. thesis of Nguyen (2020) showed the locating prepositions of "at, in, on" in English and equivalent meanings in Vietnamese in terms of grammar and semantics.

There are also documents and books that focus on the use of prepositions. Collier-Macmillan International (1964) – *The Key to English Prepositions 1* also classified each group of prepositions used for different functions such as time, position, measure, number, etc. Thereby, each preposition, when going with nouns, will give different meanings. Seth Lindstromberg (2010) – *English Prepositions Explained* classified prepositions used in different meanings and functions in each specific case. At the same time, he also grouped prepositions that have the same meaning but will be different in each context. Tom Hutch (2015) - *150 Everyday Uses of Prepositions in English* listed common prepositions used in everyday life and Jean Yates (2020) - *Barron's ESL Proficiency Series: Prepositions* listed each prepositions' meaning in contexts.

However, the above studies and documents are only generalizations, or they provide research results in certain aspects. There has not been any in-depth research on the phenomenon of prepositions in English to Vietnamese translation. In other words, there have not been any deep studies of how an English preposition will have different meanings in different contexts. Therefore, this study would analyze the phenomenon of transfer meaning between English-Vietnamese prepositions with the desire to clarify the phenomenon of meaning transference of prepositions in sentences, one of the difficulties for English learners.

### *2.1 Research Questions*

To fulfil the purpose of the study, the survey was to answer the following research questions:

- a. How many transitions of prepositions are there when translating from English to Vietnamese?
- b. Does the phenomenon of polysemy appear in the same preposition in addition to its original meaning in different contexts?

### 3. Methods

#### 3.1 Data

Researching prepositions in English (focusing on common prepositions that learners often think of first when asked about prepositions in English such as *at, in, on, for, from, to, above, before, without*, and so on) and comparing equivalent meanings in Vietnamese such as *ở, trong, trên, cho, từ, tới, trên, trước, mà không, ...*)

#### 3.2 Design of the Study

The study used the following methods. Firstly, the writer uses the comparative and contrastive method to research the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese prepositions. Secondly, the writer uses the analyzing and synthesizing theory method to study documents about prepositions in English and look for examples of sentences using prepositions in texts to serve as illustrative examples. Finally, the writer uses the classification and systematization of theory method to distinguish each phenomenon of prepositional meaning transition when translating from English to Vietnamese.

This study would examine and analyze each phenomenon of prepositional meaning change when translating from English to Vietnamese. In translated sentences, the author will try to convey the exact meaning of the sentences in certain contexts.

#### 3.3 Data collection & analysis

The study focused on English-Vietnamese prepositions and the phenomenon of prepositional meaning change when translating from English to Vietnamese. Data and examples were taken from 5 sources, including *150 Everyday Uses of Prepositions in English* by Tom Hutch, *Barron's ESL Proficiency Series: Prepositions* by Jean Yates, *Cách dùng giới từ Anh ngữ* by Tran Van Dien, *English Prepositions Explained* by Seth Lindstromberg and *The Key to English Prepositions 1* by Collier-Macmillan International. All documents are original, and the author would select a few examples that use prepositions used in everyday language to show the difference in meaning in each language when translated.

### 4. Results

#### 4.1 Prepositions are present in English but not in Vietnamese

Take the verb **wait**, in English, if we use this verb with the purpose of waiting for someone, it would be:

- (1) I will **wait for** you till 5 o'clock. (Tran, 1997, 10)
- (2) I have **waited for** you from the morning till now. (Tran, 1997, 13)

However, if translated into Vietnamese according to the Vietnamese speaking style, the two sentences above will give the following meaning:

- (1) Tôi sẽ **chờ bạn** tới 5 giờ.  
 (2) Tôi đã **chờ bạn** từ sáng cho tới bây giờ.

Next is the verb **arrive**, in English if we use this verb to talk about going somewhere, it will be:

- (3) He **arrives at** Dallat. (Tran, 1997, 12)  
 (4) We **arrive in** Saigon. (Tran, 1997, 22)

When translated into Vietnamese according to the Vietnamese style, the two sentences above will give the following meaning:

- (3) Anh ta **tới** Đà Lạt.  
 (4) Chúng tôi **tới** Saigon.

We will not translate that:

- ~~(3) Anh ta **tới ở** Đà Lạt.~~  
~~(4) Chúng tôi **tới trong** Saigon.~~

#### 4.2 Prepositions are not present in English but are present in Vietnamese.

Take the case of the verb **contact**, in English, if we use this verb for the purpose of communicating between people, it would be:

- (5) They **contacted** me about my trip. (Yates, 2020, 20)  
 (6) You can **contact** him by e-mail. (Yates, 2020, 48)

However, if translated into Vietnamese according to the Vietnamese speaking style, the two sentences above will give the following meaning:

- (5) Họ **liên lạc với** tôi về chuyến đi.  
 (6) Bạn có thể **liên lạc với** anh ta qua địa chỉ e-mail.

Take another case of the verb **enter**, in English, we use this verb to talk about where to go inside, then we will use:

- (7) When the president **entered** the room, everyone stood up. (Yates, 2020, 215)  
 (8) He **enters** my room. (Tran, 1997, 12)

When translated into Vietnamese, the two sentences above will give the following meaning:

- (7) Khi chủ tịch **vào trong** căn phòng, mọi người đều đứng dậy.  
 (8) Anh ta **vào trong** phòng tôi.

The most common causes of this change of meaning are often in the form of sentences of ditransitive verbs:

#### S + ditransitive verbs + indirect object + direct object

- (9) She **bought** him a present.  
 (10) Cong Phuong **passed** Quang Hai the ball.

With the above sentences, we will often translate as:

- (9) Cô ta **mua cho** anh ấy một món quà.  
 (10) Công Phượng **chuyên banh cho** Quang Hải.

#### 4.3 Prepositions are present in both English and Vietnamese

Take the verb **disagree**, in English, if we use this verb for the purpose of expressing an opinion, it would be:

- (11) *Whatever I say, she always **disagrees with** me.* (Hutch, 2015, 43)  
 (12) *... I sort of **disagreeing with** them.* (Hutch, 2015, 57)

If translated into Vietnamese according to the Vietnamese speaking style, the two sentences above will give the following meaning:

- (11) Tôi có nói gì, cô ấy luôn luôn **không đồng ý với** tôi.  
 (12) ... tôi kiểu như **không đồng tình với** họ.

Take the verb phrase **talk about**, in English, when we use it to express what we mean about something, we will use:

- (13) He often **talks about** his job. (Yates, 2020, 19)  
 (14) He **talked about** you. (Tran, 1997, 15)

If translated according to the Vietnamese style, we would say:

- (13) Anh ta thường **nói về** công việc của mình.  
 (14) Anh ta **đã nói về** bạn.

#### 4.4 Prepositions are present in both English and Vietnamese but different prepositions are used

Take the phrase **be famous for**, in English, we use to refer to a thing/situation that is famous, then we will have the following sentences:

- (15) Da Lat is a city **famous for** its climate. (Tran, 1997, 145)  
 (16) She is **famous for** giving great parties. (Yates, 2020, 91)

If translated according to the Vietnamese style, we would say:

- (15) Đà Lạt là một thành phố nổi tiếng **về** khí hậu tốt.  
 (16) Cô ấy nổi tiếng **về** việc tổ chức các bữa tiệc tuyệt vời.

When translating into Vietnamese, English will still use the preposition **for**. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese will use the preposition **about** (**về**). Therefore, we will use the wrong preposition if translating in normal Vietnamese:

- (15) ~~Da Lat is a city **famous for** its climate.~~  
 (16) ~~She is **famous about** giving great parties.~~

Next is the verb **remind**, in English, if we use it to talk about reminding someone of/about something, we will use it with the preposition of according to the structure:

**to remind somebody of someone/something**

- (17) She **reminds** me **of** my sister. (Yates, 2020, 260)  
 (18) The purple color **reminds** me **of** her. (Tran, 1997, 92)

In this case, when translating into Vietnamese, we will translate it as:

- (17) Cô ấy làm tôi **nhớ tới/về** chị gái của tôi.  
 (18) Màu tím làm tôi **nhớ tới/về** cô ấy.

Therefore, we will use the wrong preposition if translating in normal Vietnamese:

- ~~(17) She **reminds** me **to/about** my sister.~~  
~~(18) The purple color **reminds** me **to/about** her.~~

*4.5 Prepositions are not present in both English and Vietnamese*

In this case of translation, in English and Vietnamese sentences, they both describe common actions.

- (19) I am **awaiting** your visit with pleasure. (Yates, 2020, 199)  
 (20) I was inspired by that film to **become** a fireman. (Hutch, 2015, 2020)  
 (21) After **reading** this article three times, I still don't understand it. (Yates, 2020, 30)

Translated into Vietnamese, the above sentences will give the meaning:

- (19) Tôi **đang trông đợi** chuyến thăm của bạn với niềm vui mừng.  
 (20) Bộ phim truyền cảm hứng cho tôi để **trở thành** lính cứu hỏa.  
 (21) Sau khi **đọc** bài báo này ba lần, tôi vẫn không hiểu nó.

With **become** and **read**, there will never be a preposition followed if translated into Vietnamese:

- ~~(20) I was inspired by that film to **become into** a fireman.~~  
~~(21) After **reading about** this article three times, I still don't understand it.~~

*4.6 Prepositions are present in English, when translated into Vietnamese, they act as conjunctions or verbs*

In some cases, when translating an English to Vietnamese preposition in a sentence, we will see that the meaning of the preposition now has the meaning of conjunction or verb. Examples of the following sentences with the preposition **with**:

*a) With in the meaning of conjunction:*

- (22) **With (In case of)** problems of this sort, you have got to think in terms of five- or ten-year periods. (Lindstromberg, 2010, 219)  
 (22) **Trong trường hợp của** những vấn thuộc loại này, bạn phải nghĩ về khoảng thời gian năm hoặc mười năm  
 (23) The flower is wet **with (because of)** dew. (Tran, 1997, 16)

- (23) Những bông hoa bị ướt **bởi** sương sớm.  
 (24) The girl's face is wet **with (because of)** tears. (Yates, 2020, 224)  
 (24) Khuôn mặt của cô gái ướt **vì** nước mắt.  
 (25) I love him **with (despite)** all his faults. (Yates, 2020, 225)  
 (25) Tôi yêu anh ấy **bất chấp** tất cả những lỗi lầm của anh.  
 (26) **With (Despite)** all her problems, she is quite serene. (Yates, 2020, 225)  
 (26) **Bất chấp** mọi vấn đề của mình, cô ấy vẫn khá thanh thản.

**b) With in the meaning of verb:**

- (27) The man **with (who has)** brown eyes is my father. (Tran, 1997, 15)  
 (27) Người đàn ông **có** đôi mắt màu nâu là cha tôi.  
 (28) I am **with (agree)** you on that point. (Tran, 1997, 15)  
 (28) Tôi **đồng ý với** bạn ở điểm đó.  
 (29) I have an article **with (that contains)** pictures for my presentation.  
 (30) (Yates, 2020, 219)  
 (29) Tôi có một bài báo **chứa** những bức ảnh cho bài thuyết trình của mình.

Another case of the preposition **against**, in the meaning of verb:

- (30) They held the mirror **against (touch)** the wall. (Yates, 2020, 33)  
 (30) Họ giữ gương **dựa** vào tường.  
 (31) He is always **against (disagree)** me. (Tran, 1997, 16)  
 (31) Anh ta luôn **chống đối** tôi. (Tran, 1997, 16)

When placed in different contexts, the original meaning will be lost and give different meanings similar to Vietnamese. This phenomenon occurs due to elements of Vietnamese culture. At this point, the meaning of the two sides will no longer be equivalent to each other in the original sense. There will be many other meanings in the same preposition, and the study will only generalize to show that the phenomenon of multiple meanings of prepositions in the context is present.

Now, the study will focus on the preposition **on**, one of the most commonly used prepositions in both English and Vietnamese prepositions to show the phenomenon of multi-meaning of prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese.

**(1) on, in its original sense, is often translated by Vietnamese as trên:**

- (32) The newspaper is **on** the table. (Yates, 2020, 149)  
 (32) Tờ báo **ở trên** bàn.  
 (33) There are a lot of movies **on** television. (Yates, 2020, 159)  
 (33) Có rất nhiều bộ phim **trên** TV.

**(2) on can be translated as ở in Vietnamese:**

- (34) Please open your book **on** page one (Yates, 2020, 150)  
 (34) Hãy mở sách của bạn ra **ở** trang một.  
 (35) I live **on** the fourth floor ... (Tran, 1997, 23)



- (35) Tôi sống ở tầng bốn ...  
 (36) I am with you on that point. (Tran, 1997, 15)  
 (36) Tôi đồng ý với bạn ở điểm đó.

(3) **on** can be translated as **vào** in Vietnamese:

- (37) Come and see me on Mondays. (Tran, 1997, 10)  
 (37) Hãy đến và gặp tôi vào thứ hai.  
 (38) He visits twice a month on weekends. (Yates, 2020, 153)  
 (38) Anh ta viếng thăm hai lần một tháng vào các ngày cuối tuần.

(4) **on** can be translated as **bằng** in Vietnamese:

- (39) He came over on his bike. (Yates, 2020, 151)  
 (39) Anh ta ghé chơi bằng xe đẹp.  
 (40) George usually goes to work on the bus. (Macmilland, 1968, 15)  
 (40) George thường đi làm bằng xe buýt ...  
 (41) That car runs on diesel fuel. (Yates, 2020, 153)  
 (41) Chiếc xe hơi đó chạy bằng dầu đi-e-ze.  
 (42) He wrote his paper on the computer. (Yates, 2020, 154)  
 (42) Anh ta viết bài bằng máy tính.

(5) **on** can be translated as **về** in Vietnamese:

- (43) He gave me a lecture on science. (Tran, 1997, 15)  
 (43) Anh ấy giảng cho tôi về khoa học.  
 (44) We have a good book on gardening. (Yates, 2020, 155)  
 (44) Chúng tôi có một cuốn sách về làm vườn.

(6) **on** can be translated as **bên** in Vietnamese:

- (45) The porch is on the side of the house. (Yates, 2020, 150)  
 (45) Mái hiên bên hông nhà.  
 (46) Did you notice the twin oak trees on the left hand side of the path? (Lindstromberg, 2010: 58)  
 (46) Bạn có để ý thấy đôi cây sồi bên tay trái của lối đi không?

(7) **on** can be translated as **đối diện** in Vietnamese:

- (47) Their house is on the beach. (Yates, 2020, 150)  
 (47) Nhà của họ đối diện bãi biển.  
 (48) Both of these campgrounds are right on the ocean. (Lindstromberg, 2010, 52)  
 (48) Cả hai khu cắm trại đều đối diện ngay bãi biển.

(8) **on** can be translated as **trong** in Vietnamese:

- (49) She is on the basketball team ... (Yates, 2020, 156)  
 (49) Cô ta trong đội bóng rổ ...

(9) *on* can be translated as *lên* in Vietnamese:

- (50) *She poured water **on** the plant.* (Yates, 2020, 151)  
 (51) *Cô ta tưới nước **lên** cái cây.*  
 (52) *He sprinkled salt **on** the meat.* (Yates, 2020, 151)  
 (51) *Anh ấy rắc muối **lên** miếng thịt.*

(10) *on* can be translated as *khi* in Vietnamese:

- (52) *She fainted **on** hearing the news.* (Yates, 2020, 159)  
 (52) *Cô ấy ngất **khi** nghe thông tin.*  
 (53) ***On** hearing the victory, people were transported with joy.* (Tran, 1997, 180)  
 (53) ***Khi** nghe tin chiến thắng, dân chúng xiết nỗi vui mừng.*

(11) *on* can be translated as *với* in Vietnamese:

- (54) *The teacher is much too easy **on** the boys.* (Yates, 2020, 160)  
 (54) *Người giáo viên quá dễ dãi **với** những học sinh nam.*  
 (55) *I think I was too rough **on** her yesterday.* (Yates, 2020, 160)  
 (55) *Tôi nghĩ tôi đã quá khắt khe **với** cô ta ngày hôm qua.*

In addition to the above cases, the preposition *on* has other meanings in English expressions but does not carry the prepositional meaning when translated into Vietnamese. In this case, the translator will use Vietnamese expressions with similar meanings to express the meaning of *on* in the sentence. For example:

- (56) *They were **on the road** for two days during their trip.* (Macmillan, 1964, 3)  
 (56) *Họ đã **đi được** 2 ngày trong suốt chuyến đi.*  
 (57) *The light's **on**.* (Lindstromberg, 2010, 65)  
 (57) *Đèn **đang bật***  
 (58) *The meeting's **on**.* (vs off) (Lindstromberg, 2010, 65)  
 (58) *Cuộc họp **đang diễn ra**.*  
 (59) *He is always **on hand** to help us.* (Yates, 2020, 158)  
 (59) *Anh ta luôn **có mặt** để giúp chúng tôi.*  
 (60) *She is **on a diet**.* (Yates, 2020, 158)  
 (60) *Cô ta **đang ăn kiêng**.*

Through analyzing the preposition *on* in the above contexts, the author has pointed out **11 different meanings** of the preposition “*on*” when placed in different contexts and the exception when it is a fixed phrase, resulting in similar meanings to Vietnamese when translated.

## 5. Conclusion and Discussion

### *Summarising*

The research has answered two questions raised by referencing documents on English and Vietnamese prepositions as a basis for research and surveying cases of prepositional transitions when translating from English to Vietnamese. Specifically, how many phenomena will occur when we translate English prepositions into Vietnamese and whether an English preposition can have many meanings other than the original meaning when placed in different contexts.

The study shows that there are **6 cases** of transition of prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese. Cases showing the similarities and differences of prepositions in each different language will have different usage, thereby drawing the conclusion that prepositions are arbitrary and do not have a prepositional using method. There will be cases where prepositions are present in both English and Vietnamese, and they have the same meaning when translated. There will be cases where prepositions are added or omitted, or both have the same meaning, but the preposition is used differently, and there are cases where there are no prepositions in sentences to describe actions.

The study also shows that in translation, learners or translators need to look closely at the phenomena of translation in order to be able to convey the correct meaning and use the correct prepositions. Moreover, the study also shows that when considering the cultural factor of the language to be translated, it will give different meanings in one preposition. To clarify, the preposition *on* can be translated in many meanings similar to other prepositions in Vietnamese and other expressions in addition to the original meaning *trên*, including other **10 meanings: ở, vào, bằng, về, bên, đối diện, trong, lên, khi, với.**

The findings in this paper provide the basis for people to see that prepositions are one of the important aspects of English. Understanding and using correct prepositions will help us express our ideas through language and express it naturally. According to Tran (1997), “learning the form and meaning of prepositions is not enough. What matters is learning how to use prepositions in different situations.” The study also shows that the proficient use of English prepositions does not have a uniform rule, but it takes practice and habits to become proficient. Prepositions are diverse and always change meaning when placed in different contexts. Therefore, there is no method of using prepositions.

According to Nguyen (2001), in both English and Vietnamese, linguists classify prepositions into functional words, linking words, empty words, etc. Prepositions have an important position in the word system. Type, it has the ability to connect, showing the relationship between the elements in the sentence that they link. Moreover, it is necessary to distinguish prepositions from conjunctions in both English and Vietnamese. Conjunctions are words that show an equality relationship, and prepositions represent a main-subordinate relationship. In English, prepositions also need to be distinguished from minor adverbs. Sub-adverbs differ from prepositions in terms of syntactic and grammatical features.

In both English and Vietnamese sentences, a preposition always precedes the noun or pronoun that it governs to form a prepositional phrase (preposition). Prepositions in both languages can be used at the beginning of a complex sentence with a clause to indicate different meanings in translation, such as purpose, cause, and effect.

In conclusion, the study hopes to have partly contributed to the identification of the meaning of English prepositions in learning and translation. Therefore, the research paper hopes to be useful to English learners and individuals who are passionate about teaching aspects of the language, especially prepositions.

### *Limitations*

The study is only a small contribution to the study of English prepositions by analyzing some transitional phenomena and briefly mentioning that a preposition can have many meanings and play different roles in the English language. In other words, there will be many phenomena that change the meaning of prepositions and the phenomenon of multiple meanings of each preposition that within the scope of this research paper will not be able to cover all of them.

According to Nguyen (2001), from the analysis of the prepositional systems of English and Vietnamese, we can see that the prepositional systems in both languages have diversity and rich activities. The English preposition system is considered difficult to use for Vietnamese learners because of the habit of translating the language directly from the mother tongue, and the meaning and usage of the preposition system are sometimes different from that of Vietnamese. Moreover, the differences in respective structures and spatial and temporal perception of the British and Vietnamese are often not the same.

The author also agrees with the point of view of Nguyen (2001), that teaching and learning English prepositions should not be separated from each other but should be taught and integrated into the process of grammar teaching and communication knowledge. In addition to the theory in class, learners need to practice in class to be able to remember the taught prepositions and use them correctly. First, they need to understand the nature of prepositions between English and Vietnamese, then gradually apply them through small exercises, then progress to the exercises of compounding sentences and completing sentences. In addition, the role of the mother tongue needs to go hand in hand with learning English. Secba (1979), in the book "On foreign language teaching methods," said: "Experience has shown that it is impossible to give up the mother tongue in the process of learning a foreign language, but it is impossible to remove the mother tongue from the students' minds obtainable" (213).

### *Discussion*

In addition, the study suggests that in teaching translation, especially prepositions, teachers should pay attention to making learners understand that preposition translation should not be translated directly in their own language. They must rely on context and semantics in linguistics. Teachers also need to help learners limit the habit of translating everything into their native language, especially prepositions, because the case of a preposition with multiple meanings

does occur. Furthermore, based on cultural differences and habits of using prepositions in different languages, teachers should also understand clearly so that they can help learners reduce mistakes when using prepositions. During the teaching process, the teacher should:

- Analyzing the phenomenon of meaning change of prepositions when translating from English to Vietnamese in translation so that learners can accurately translate the meaning of sentences.
- Analyzing the case of multiple meanings of prepositions in translation that, in addition to common meanings, can have other meanings in different contexts.
- Analyzing other roles of prepositions in sentences, which can be verbs or conjunctions.

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## Biodata

As an excellent student at Sai Gon University, Phat Dinh Dac has won a championship in an annual contest "The Winner" and conducted a scientific research at the university level. He will be able to get more achievements when he has been exposed to scholarly atmosphere like the one created by this Conference.