

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**



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KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP

NGÀNH: NGOẠI NGỮ

HẢI PHÒNG - 2010

**HAIPHONG PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**

GRADUATION PAPER

**A STUDY ON UNREAL CONDITIONAL SENTENCES
AND WAYS TO TRASLATE THEM INTO
VIETNAMESE**

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Class:

NA1004

Supervisor:

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HAI PHONG - 2010

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**

Nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp

Sinh viên:Mã số:

Lớp:Ngành:.....

Tên đề tài:
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Nhiệm vụ đề tài

1. Nội dung và các yêu cầu cần giải quyết trong nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp (về lý luận, thực tiễn, các số liệu cần tính toán và các bản vẽ).

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2. Các số liệu cần thiết để thiết kế, tính toán.

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3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.

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CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN ĐỀ TÀI

Người hướng dẫn thứ nhất:

Họ và tên:

Học hàm, học vị:

Cơ quan công tác:.....

Nội dung hướng dẫn:.....

Người hướng dẫn thứ hai:

Họ và tên:.....

Học hàm, học vị:.....

Cơ quan công tác:.....

Nội dung hướng dẫn:.....

Đề tài tốt nghiệp được giao ngày 12 tháng 04 năm 2010

Yêu cầu phải hoàn thành xong trước ngày 10 tháng 07 năm 2010

Đã nhận nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

Sinh viên

Đã giao nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

Người hướng dẫn

Hải Phòng, ngày tháng năm 2010

HIỆU TRƯỞNG

GS.TS. NGUYỄN Trần Hữu Nghị

PHẦN NHẬN XÉT TÓM TẮT CỦA CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN

1. Tinh thần thái độ của sinh viên trong quá trình làm đề tài tốt nghiệp:

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2. Đánh giá chất lượng của khóa luận (so với nội dung yêu cầu đã đề ra trong nhiệm vụ Đ.T. T.N trên các mặt lý luận, thực tiễn, tính toán số liệu...):

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3. Cho điểm của cán bộ hướng dẫn (ghi bằng cả số và chữ):

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Hải Phòng, ngày tháng năm 2010

Cán bộ hướng dẫn
(họ tên và chữ ký)

NHẬN XÉT ĐÁNH GIÁ
CỦA NGƯỜI CHĂM PHẢN BIỆN ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP

1. Đánh giá chất lượng đề tài tốt nghiệp về các mặt thu thập và phân tích tài liệu, số liệu ban đầu, giá trị lí luận và thực tiễn của đề tài.

2. Cho điểm của người chấm phản biện :

(Điểm ghi bằng số và chữ)

Ngày..... tháng..... năm 2010

Người chấm phản biện

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ABBREVIATION

Dep Cl	Dependent clause
Indep Cl	Independent clause
Conj	Conjunction
SL	Source language
TL	Target language
ST	Source text
TT	Target Text

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

To many Vietnamese learners who have been learning English for a long time, English grammar still seems to be a puzzle. Among a number of complex problems, conditional sentences are really a challenge. They are difficult because of their complicated structures with two clauses: subordinate clause or if-clause and main clause. In addition, there are many variations which may cause confusion. The meanings of conditional sentences are subtle; therefore in order to understand them, we need to be sensitive enough. Moreover, any conditional sentence is a combination of tense and a range of auxiliaries which require learners to grasp before being able to understand and use it.

Furthermore, conditional sentences represent an obstacle to Vietnamese learners in the English-Vietnamese translation process. There are a large number of problems they may have while translating these conditional sentences, especially unreal conditional ones into Vietnamese. They may produce worse or even wrong version to the original one, as many students do not really have full understanding of unreal conditionals. In order to correctly and satisfactorily translate them into Vietnamese, it is worth studying their definitions, types and characteristics. Also, students should look into techniques of translation by examining unreal conditional sentences translated by famous practitioners. Since they are such high barriers to learners, I find it necessary to discuss the topic "**Unreal conditionals and ways to translate them into Vietnamese**" in my paper.

2. The aims of the study

The aims of this study are:

- Categorizing English conditionals to help the readers have an insight into English conditionals especially unreal conditionals which may cause confusion to many learners of English.
- Introducing some common translating methods which may be helpful in translating unreal conditionals.

- Suggesting some practical ways to translate English unreal conditionals into Vietnamese equivalents.

3. The scopes of the study

Due to the time limitation, it doesn't have the ambition to cover all details related to the conditionals. This study, therefore, mainly focuses on the features and uses of the most striking cases of conditional structures in English. And the study also concentrates on ways of translating unreal conditional structures and sentences, which often cause troubles or mistakes to both Vietnamese translators and interpreters.

4. Methods of the study

- Analyzing available translation materials in published books and novels.
- Consulting experienced people such as my supervisor, my teachers and friends on the matter concerned.
- Relying on my observation and experience during my learning process.

5. The design of the study

This study is divided into 3 chapters:

Chapter 1 presents the definitions, elements and types of sentences. It also gives the readers a generalization about conditionals, especially unreal conditionals.

Chapter 2 attempts to present an overview of basic theoretical translation as well as the two methods which are helpful in translating unreal conditionals.

Chapter 3 gives some ways to translate unreal conditionals and sentences with other words and structures other than “if” into Vietnamese.

PART II

DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 1: GENERALIZATION ABOUT CONDITONALS IN ENGLISH

To have an insight into conditionals, I would like to present the basic knowledge of sentences including definition and types of sentences as well as unreal conditionals.

I. Sentences

1. Definitions of sentences

There are a number of sentence definitions given by different grammarians. According to L.G. Alexander (1988:2), a sentence is defined as “a complete unit of meaning. When we speak, our sentence may be extremely involved or even unfinished, yet we can still convey our meaning through intonation gesture, facial expression, etc. When we write, these devices are not available, so sentences have to be carefully structured and punctuated. A written sentence must begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop (.), a question mark (?) or an explanation mark (!)”

Roloff and Brosseit in the book “Sentences” (1979:13) writes "sentence is a group of related words that expresses a complete and meaningful thought; either a statement, a question, a command or an exclamation".

In addition, the "New Webster's expanded dictionary" states, "Sentence is an opinion, a maxim, a judgment, a number of words containing complete sense"

In short, a sentence is a group of words that you use to communicate ideas in writing or in speaking. Every sentence is composed of one or more clauses and expresses a complete thought.

According to Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum (1987:12), a sentence may alternatively be seen as comprising five units called elements of structure: subject, verb, complement, object, adverbial abbreviated respectively as S, V, C,O, A.

2. Classification of sentences

2.1 Simple sentence

A simple sentence is the one that consists of one clause. We have seven clause types, or in other words, seven patterns of simple sentences (Quirk, 1987:165)

- * SV The child laughed.
- * SVA Mary is in the house.
- * SVC Mary is kind/ a nurse.
- * SVO Somebody caught the ball.
- * SVOA I put the bag on the table.
- * SVOC We have proved him wrong/ a fool.
- * SVOO She gives me expensive presents.

2.2 Compound sentence

A compound sentence is the one that contains two or more independent clauses, usually linked together by a coordinating conjunction.

- * Mary sang, and John danced.

Indep Cl Conj Indep Cl

2.3 Complex sentence

A complex sentence is the one that contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

- . After he had finished his homework, he went out with his girlfriend.

Dep Cl

Indep Cl

Dependent clauses may be classified by structural type, i.e. in terms of the element, or by function, i.e. the part they play in the subordinate clause.

- * **Analyzing by structural type**, we have:

- **Finite clause**: A clause whose verb element is a finite verb phrase.

. Tom is very tired because he has worked for a long time.

- **Non - finite clause:** A clause whose verb element is a non finite verb phrase.

. Having seen the pictures, he....

- **Verbless clause:** A clause containing no verb element.

. Al though always busy, he comes to see me once a day.

* **Functional classification of dependent clauses:** Dependent clauses may function as subject, object, complement or adverbial in the superordinate clause.

- **Nominal clauses:**

+ Subject: *That we need more equipment is obvious.*

+ Direct object: *I know that she is pretty.*

+ Indirect object: *I gave whoever it was a cup of coffee.*

+ Object complement: *I imagined him overcome with grief.*

- **Adverbial clauses:**

+ Adjunct: When we meet, I shall explain everything.

+ Disjunct: To be honest, I have never loved her.

+ Conjunct: What is more, he has lost the friends he had.

In general, subordination is marked by some indications. Such a signal may be of the following different kinds.

- **Subordinators:**

Simple subordinators: *after, (al) though, as, because, before, if, once, since, that, until, when, where, while...*

Compound subordinators:

. Ending with “*that*”: *in that, so that, such that, except that...*

. Ending with optional “*that*”: *now (that) provided (that), supposing (that), considering (that)...*

. Ending with “*as*”: *as far as, as long as, as soon as, so long as...*

. Ending with “*than*”: *sooner than (+ infinitive clause), rather than (+ non finite or verb less clause)*

. Other: *as though, as if, in case...*

Correlative subordinators: *If... then, Al (though)... yet/ nevertheless, asso, such....as, no sooner....than, whether....or, the....the, such.....that...*

. *This is such a good film that I have watched it several times.*

-Other indicators of subordination

Wh-elements: *Who, whom, whose, which, where, when, whether, how, what, why, whoever, whatever, wherever, whenever...*

Subject-operator inversion: It is a marker of subordination in some conditional clauses, where the operator is *had, were, or should*.

. *Had I known before, I would have helped him.*

Other unusual syntactic orderings also play a role in distinguishing a subordinate clause: e.g. *Sad though I was.*

The relative pronoun *that* (to be distinguished from the subordinating conjunction *that*) is a subordination marker in relative clauses:

E.g. The bus *that took me there* was late.

The absence of a finite verb form is effectively an indication of subordinate status, since non – finite and verbless clauses occur only in independent clauses:

E.g. The match will take place tomorrow, weather *permitting*.

There are only two types of subordinate clause that contain no marker within themselves of subordinate status: these are

(I) Nominal clause which may or may not have *that*

I suppose *you're right* (I suppose *that you're right*).

(II) Comment clauses of a kind relatable to the main clause in the previous example:

You're right, *I suppose*

In short, from the theory above, we can recognise that conditional sentences are under the group of complex sentences because conditionals include one "if clause" (subordinate or dependent clause) and one main clause (independent clause).

3.4 Compound complex sentence

A compound complex sentence is a combination of two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

It is like a family of two adults and one or more children.

Example:

. After I graduated from high school, I wanted to travel, but I had to

Dep Cl

Indep Cl

Dep Cl

work in my family's business.

II. Conditional sentences

1. Definition of conditional sentences

Much effort has been devoted to finding a clear definition of English conditional sentences. In fact, conditional sentences are defined in many different ways by different linguists. One of them is "the dependence of one set of circumstance (i.e. the result clause) on another (i.e. the if-clause)" (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1987:323). In other words, the conditionals present "a grammatical relationship" in which one situation is said to be dependent on another (Tom McArthur, 1972).

Collins Cobuild - English grammar (1992) looks into conditional sentences in terms of the structure as it claims that a conditional sentence includes two components. The subordinate clause, usually beginning with "if", gives a condition that must be fulfilled before what the main clause says can be true, possible, or done.

By the same token, its structure is also examined as follows: the if- clause or "the protasis" expressing a condition and the main clause or "the apodosis" stating the reason. (Oxford English Dictionary Volume II C, 1979)

Briefly, conditional sentences, in terms of structure, are made up of two clauses: the "if" clause also "subordinates", "dependent clause" or "protasis" and by "the main clause" or "apodosis". In normal, the dependent clause is followed by "the main clause", but sometimes the "if clause" stands before "the main clause". For examples:

Eg: I would buy this car, if I were you.

If it rains, I will stay at home.

There is a close interrelationship between the two elements. The if- clause often refers to a condition which must take place first so that something else can happen in the main clause.

2. Classification of conditional sentences

2.1 Real conditionals

2.1.1 Zero conditionals

Zero conditionals are for situations that are always true. They are often used in scientific writing.

If clause,	Main clause
Present tense	Present tense

If the temperature drops below 0⁰C, water freezes.

2.1.2 First conditionals

First conditional sentences make predictions about what will happen in future. It "implies the action in the if-clause is quite probable" (Thomas and Martinet, 1985:197).

If clause,	Main clause
Present tense	Future tense

If he catches the fast train, he will get here early.

2.2 Unreal conditionals

2.2.1. Unreal conditionals in the present

a. Definition

This type is also called second conditionals. It expresses "the action as a theoretical possibility, something more distant from reality". (Eastwood, 1994:336)

If I had enough money, I would lend him.

This type of conditionals talks about "unreal situations - things that will probably not happen, situations that are untrue or imaginary" (Swan, 1997:260). In other words, we are discussing a hypothetical situation which is unlikely or impossible to become true later or true now.

b. Form

If – clause	main clause
Past tense	Would + bare infinitive

If Phil lived near his mother, he would visit here more often.

I would tell you the answer if I knew what it was.

c. Use

* We use this structure to make a statement about something that is not real at present but it is possible (hypothetical conditions).

If I won a lot of money, I would take a long holiday. (I do not win now but I might in the future)

Second conditionals pertain to a present condition that is not being fulfilled or not real now and never could be real (hypothetical conditions).

*If you were eight and a half feet tall, you would be a great basketball player.
(But you are not eight feet tall, so you are not a great basketball player).*

If I were you, I would give up smoking.

(But I could never be you).

* We use second conditionals to refer to both the present and the future.

If it were snowing (at this moment), I would drive you home.

If you didn't pass the exam (in the future), would you take it again?

* When we are tentative or less direct, we use second conditionals to be more polite.

Would it be OK if I brought a friend?

If we went through the town center, it would probably be quiet.

d. Variations of second conditional sentences

❖ Variations in the if - clause

* Sometimes the continuous form is used in the if –clause to discuss imaginary situations which would not be happening at this very moment.

If the sun were shining, I would go to the beach.

(Unfortunately, it is raining so I can't go).

* "Should", "should happen". "Happened to" used in if- clause may weaken the possibility of the condition.

If I should have money, I would buy a house

(It is not likely that I will have money)

If you happened to pass a supermarket, perhaps you could yet some eggs.

If he should happen to finish early, he would be at home.

*"Would" may be used but it is very informal and is common in spoken AE.

It would be better if they would tell anybody in advance.

* "Were to" is used in if - clause to make the event more hypothetical on the statement more tentative and therefore more polite.

If you were to have a few minutes free, I'd really appreciate the opportunity to pick your brains.

We'd be in real trouble if the boss were to come in now.

* It is noticeable that this structure is not used with stative verb.

If I knew her name, I would tell you.

(Not if I were to know her name...)

From many examples above, we can see that in the if- clause of a second conditional, "were" is used with all subjects and pronouns.

In fact, "were" is not really the past tense but the subjunctive to voice a hypothetical situation.

If I were at home, I'd be able to find the information.

When we use "were" in the if - clause, we can invert "were" and the subject of the clause, and leave out "if" altogether.

Were he really ill, I might feel more sympathetic.

❖ Variations in the main clause

Like in the first conditional sentence where "will" can be substituted by other modal verbs, "would" in the second conditional also has many substitutions.

If I won lots of money, I might stop working (possibility)

If I were rich, I could help more people (ability).

We shouldn't get to sleep at all if I lived next to that noise.

"Should" is used instead of "would" after "We/I" with the same meaning as "would".

* Continuous form is sometimes used in the main clause.

I would be rafting down the Colorado River right now if my leg weren't broken. (But my leg is broken so I'm not there).

* The main clause may be in the simple past tense if we want to express habitual reactions in the past. The past tense here has a past meaning.

If anyone interrupted him, he got angry.

2.2.2 Unreal conditionals in the past.

a. Definition

This type is also called third conditional. Swan (1997:61) claims that "third conditionals talk about past situations which are no longer possible because of the way things have turned out". In other words, in third conditional, the hypothetical situation is in the past and we are talking about something that did not happen.

The chance of the condition becoming true is zero because everyone knows that it did not happen. There is no doubt and no disagreement about the fact.

If he had obeyed his mother, he would not have been punished. (But in fact, he disobeyed his mother; as a result, he was punished.)

b. Form

If – clause,	Main clause.
Past perfect tense	would have+ past participle.

We wouldn't have missed the train if we hadn't wasted a time.

c. Use

- * 3rd conditionals are usually used to talk about unreal past situations.

If I had studied hard, I would have passed the exam.

(But I didn't study hard).

- This kind of sentence expresses reproach and regret.

*I would not have left my job if I had known how difficult it was
(I regret that I had left the job).*

d. Variations

❖ Variations in the if- clause

If clauses referring to the past are sometimes constructed with "'d have". This is not normally written but happens quite often in educated people's speech (Swan, 1997).

If I'd have known, I would have told you.

We can leave out "if" and put "had" at the beginning of the if- clause.

Had you not driven so carefully, the accident would have been much worse.

The continuous can be used in the if- clause:

If I had been talking to him when he said that, I would have punched him in the face.

❖ Variations in the main clause

In the main clause sometimes appears the continuous form. This is used to discuss imaginary situations happening at a very specific time or over a period of time in the past.

If you had gone to his house last night, he would have been sitting on his couch in front of the TV.

In addition to "would" some other modal verbs like "could" and "might" can be used in the main clause.

If you had been here earlier, you would/ could/ might have seen the Queen.

2.2.3. Mixed conditionals

a. Definition

When we talk about mixed conditionals, we are referring to conditionals that combine two different types of conditional patterns.

Mixed conditionals refer to both the present and the past. We choose the tense of the main verb in each clause accordingly. One clause may be in conditional type 2 (second conditional) and the other may be conditional type 3 (third conditional).

b. Form

Most of the mixed conditions are mixed third and second conditions and mixed second and third conditions.

- Mixed third and second conditions:

If - clause (type 3)	Main clause (type 2)
Past perfect tense	Would+ bare infinitive

If I hadn't wasted so money last week, we would be able to afford a better holiday.

- Mixed second and third conditions:

If - clause (type 2)	Main clause (type 3)
Past tense	Would+ have past participle

If I were not so busy, I would have taken off a few days last week.

c. Use

❖ Mixed third - second conditionals

With this combination, we are contrasting an imagined or real event in the past with its present result.

If he had not run after the car thief and suffered a heart attach, he would probably be alive today.

❖ Mixed second - third conditionals

We are describing ongoing circumstances in relation to a previous past event

If you weren't such a poor dancer, you would have got a job in the chorus line in that musical.

(Present fact: you are a poor dancer)

Past sequence: you didn't get a job in the chorus line)

Besides research on unreal conditionals, I would like to study some special situations of conditionals such as: *Implied conditionals, short conditionals, conditionals inversion, and other conditionals words and structures other than "if"*. And I also would like to present some practical ways to translate them into Vietnamese in Chapter 3.

2.3 Implied conditionals

In such sentences, even though there is not if- clause as the pattern of conditionals, its meaning is also understood and they are often regarded as conditionals.

E.g. *I would have gone with you, but I had to study.*

(Implied conditional: *If I had not had to study, I would...*)

I never would have succeeded without your help

(Implied conditional: *if you had not helped me, I never would...*)

But for your help, I don't know what I'd have done.

(Implied conditional: *If it were not for your help, ...*

If it hadn't been for your help,...)

Often when the if - clause is implied, not stated, conditional verbs are still used in the result clause.

2.4 Short conditional

If a conditional clause contains the verb "be", the subject and some form of "be" may be omitted and we can use a phrase of "if" followed by.

- A predicate noun: *If (it is) a failure, it may be an unforgettable experience to lead us to success.*

- A predicative adjective: *I'll come to the meeting if (it is) necessary.*
- A prepositional clause: *If (you are) in danger, please ring this number.*
- A participle:
 - + Present participle: *If (you are) facing such a difficulty, you can come to ask him advice.*
 - + Past participle: *If (is) well - equipped, working condition will be partly improved.*

2.5 Conditional inversions

"If" often appears in a conditional clause to introduce a hypothetical condition. In formal and literary styles, "if" can be dropped and an auxiliary verb is put in front of the subject. This happens with "were", "had" and "should" but rarely with other auxiliary verbs.

Were she my daughter, I would buy her many fashionable clothes.

(If she were my daughter...)

Had I realized what you intended, I would have accepted your plan.

(If I had realized what you intended...)

Should you change your mind, she will be very disappointed.

(If you should change your mind...)

Swan (1997) also notes that in these inversion structures, negatives are not contracted.

Had we not changed our reservations, we should all have been killed in the crash.

(Not "Hadn't we changed...)

2.6. Other conditional words and structures other than "if"

2.6.1. Using other conditional conjunctions

"Unless, even if, only that, in case, even though, whether... (or not), on condition that, on the understanding that, provided that, providing that, in case of,

but for, with are some common conditional conjunctions that can replace "if". These conjunctions, however, have their own meanings and usage.

a) Unless

Most of the time "unless" is used instead of "if...not" in the sense of "except if". It refers to exceptional circumstances which would change a situation.

Come tomorrow unless I phone.

(Come tomorrow if I do not phone).

"Unless", in fact, can express a strong degree of reservation than "if...not". "I won't come unless you phone" is closer in meaning to "I'll only come round if you phone" than "I won't come round if you don't phone".

According to Swan (1997:601) in certain circumstances we do not use "unless" to refer to something negative that would be the main cause of the situation that we are talking about.

My wife will be very upset if I don't get back tomorrow.

(Not "My wife will be upset unless I get back tomorrow).

Because if the speaker (I) does not get back, this will be the main cause of his wife's unhappiness. In this sentence, "if not" doesn't mean "except".

"She would look nice if she didn't wear so much make-up".

(not "she would look nice unless she wore so much make-up")

That "if she didn't wear so much make-up" will be the reason why "she would look nice", therefore, "if...not" is used instead of "unless".

b) Even if, even though

We use "even if" and "even though" when there is no possibility of confusion:

Even if I become a millionaire, I shall always be a socialist.

(not "even I become a millionaire.....).

Even though I didn't know any body at the party, I had a nice time.

c) In case:

"*In case*" and "*if*" are often used in different ways.

"*I do A in case B happens*" usually means "*I do A first because B might happen*". A is first:

"*I do A if B happens*" means "*I do A if b has already happened*". B is first.

Let's buy a bottle of wine in case Roger comes.

(Let's buy a bottle of wine now because Roger might come later.)

The action of buying a bottle of wine happens first and it is taken whether Roger comes or not. But "*Let's buy a bottle of wine if Roger comes*" is equivalent to "*We will wait and see. If Roger comes, then we'll buy the wine. If he doesn't, we won't*"

d) Conjunctions ending with optional "that"

Pretend (that), imagine (that), considering (that), suppose (that), supposing (that), assuming (that), are used to talk about what might happen.

Other conjunctions "*providing (that), provided (that), on condition (that)*" can be used to make conditions. We can leave out "*that*" in these expressions in informal use.

All these expressions can be used with a similar meaning to "*if*" and often with the same structure, too.

Pretend/ Imagine that we could fly, wouldn't that be fun!

Supposing/ suppose that you fell in love with your girl friend's darling, what would you do?

Provided/ providing that you bring it back, you can borrow my bike.

I'll give you a day off on condition that you work on Sunday morning.

e) Whether....or (not).

"*Whether....or*" may replace "*if... or even if*"

Whether we beat them or they beat us, the match will be enjoyable.

(If we beat them, or even if they beat us....)

2.6.2. Using different structure

In addition to "if clause, main clause " and various other structures mentioned above, conditional meanings can be conveyed by some other structures. But most of these structures are used in conversational style only.

Do you like it? It's yours!

(If you like it, it's yours).

An imperative clause then "or, and" and a main clause will give another expression of conditional meaning:

"Stay in bed for a few days and you will be fine"

(If you stay in bed for a few days, you will be fine).

"Or (else) means "if not" or "otherwise":

"Don't try to lift that box, you'll hurt yourself).

Using pronouns:

Anyone who does that deserves to be punished.

(If anyone does that, he deserves to be punished).

Otherwise:

Otherwise, I wouldn't be here

(If thing were not the way they are, I wouldn't be here)

A relative clause modifying generic nouns:

"Teachers who do not teach well cannot be respected"

(If teachers do not teach well, they cannot be respected)

He who reads, will acquire knowledge.

(If he reads, he will acquire knowledge)

In these examples, the premise of the action is contained in a relative pronoun "who" rather than "if". The antecedent of the relative clause is always indefinite thus imparting a conditional force to the clause.

* Hope and wish:

- Hope: The verb "hope" indicates possibility. Hopes are more like statements. It is similar to future (predictive) conditionals in which the same clauses. Following "hope" can be either the if-clause or the result clause, and future condition.

E.g. *I hope that no one comes late, our parting meeting will begin on time.*

If no one comes late, our parting will begin on time.

The two sentences above show that it is possible that no one may come late and our parting meeting may begin on time.

- Wish: "Wish" is used when the speaker wants the reality to be actually opposite. That means the idea after "wish" is unreal. Therefore, it is similar to hypothetical. The clause following "wish" can be either the if-clause or the result clause of a counterfactual condition.

E.g. *I wish I had studied harder, I could have got a better result.*

If I had studied harder, I could have got a better result.

The sentences above show that "I did not study harder and so I did not get a better result"

The conjunctive forms can be in such cases.

E.g. *I wish I were a bird, I would fly everywhere.*

If I were a bird, I would fly anywhere.

I would like to give the background on translation with the hope of helping readers get a basic knowledge of translation in this chapter. And from that, I choose the most suitable methods to apply to translate unreal conditionals and sentences with other words and structures other than “if” into Vietnamese.

1. Definition of translation

Before comparing any translated text with its original and evaluating a translated version, we should have a basic knowledge of what translation and its nature is. However, it is not an easy task to find out the most satisfactory answer to that question. In fact, almost all authors, in their study, have owned their definitions of translation based on their own view.

Hanson and Matim (1990:18) in their book “Discourse and the Translator” give a definition of translation as follows: “Translation as a process, involving the negotiation of meaning between producers and receivers of text is to be seen as an evidence of a translation, a mean of retracting the partway of the translator’s decision making procedures”.

According to R. J. Bell (1991:7) in “Translation and Translating”, “Translation is the expression in another language /or target language of what has been expressed in another, preserving semantic and stylistic equivalencies”.

In his book “Approaches to translation”, Peter Newmark (1998:7) defines translation as a craft consisting an attempt to replace a written message and /or statement in one language by the same message and /or statement in another language. E. Nida, another famous theorist, holds the view that translation is an art, a skill and a science.

Taking some definitions of translation into consideration, the author would like to prove that there are different definitions of translation, thus there are different ways it is conducted. However, the ultimate aim of translation is to produce the best version of a written or spoken message in another language. Therefore, it involves activities, efforts, techniques, and skills. Besides, translation

has something to do with art, as it requires creativeness as well as imagination to make good choices of words, to fill the semantic gap between the two languages and to settle various cultural factors.

In conclusion, translation can be viewed both as a process and a product, an art and a science. That definition would not be a compromise among, but a good combination of the definitions mentioned above.

2. Methods of translation

According to Newmark (1998:45), two major methods of translation namely communication translation and semantic translation can fulfil the two main aims of translation, which are first, accuracy, and second, economy. Semantic translation is used for “expressive” texts while communicative for “informative” and “vocative” texts.

In “A textbook for translation” Newmark provided a V diagram



Word-for-word translation

The SL word order is preserved and the words translated by their common meanings. Cultural words are translated literally. The main use of this method is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or to construct a difficult text as pre-translation process.

Literal translation

The SL grammatical constructions are converted to the nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. As pre-translation process, this indicates the problems to be solved.

Faithful translation

A faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It “transfers” cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical “abnormality” (deviation from SL norms) in the translation. IT attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realisation of the SL writer.

Semantic translation

Semantic translation differs from “faithful translation” only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value (that is, the beautiful and natural sound) of the SL text, compromising on “meaning” where appropriate so that no assonance, word play or repetition jars in the finished version. Further, it may translate less important cultural words by culturally neutral third or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents. These “*Give him a cold shoulder*” can be translated as “*Đôi xử lạnh nhạt với anh ấy*”.

Semantic translation may also take other small concessions to the readership. The distinction between “faithful” and “semantic” translation is that the former is uncompromising and dogmatic while the latter is more flexible, admits the creative exception to 100% fidelity and allows for the translator’s intuitive empathy with the original.

Adaptation

This is the “freest” form of translation. It is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry, the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text written. The deplorable practice of having a play or poem literally translated and then rewritten by an established dramatist or poet has produced much poor adaptation, but other adaptation has “rescued” period plays.

Free translation

Free translation reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Usually it is a paraphrase much longer than the original, a so-called “intralingua translation”, often prolix and pretentious, and not translation at all.

Idiomatic translation

Idiomatic translation reproduces the “message” of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

Communicative translation

Communicative translation attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

But in my graduation paper, I only focus on two main translation methods that are semantic and communicative translation because the two methods are applied to translate unreal conditionals

3. Comments in the two methods: Semantic and Communicative translation

In general, the semantic translation is written at the author’s linguistic level, the communicative at the readership’s. Theoretically, there are wide differences between them: “Semantic translation is personal and individual, follows the thought process of the author, tends to over-translate, pursues nuances of meaning, yet aims at concision in order to reproduce pragmatic impact. Communicative translation is social, concentrates on the message and the main force of the text, tends to under-translate, to be simple, clear and brief, and is always written in a natural and resourceful style”, Newmark (1988:47-48).

A communicative translation is often better than its original, since it may gain force what it loses in semantic content while a semantic translation is always inferior to its original.

A semantic translation has to interpret; a communicative translation has to explain. Communicative translation allows the translator no more freedom than semantic translation. Indeed, translation is always aimed at readership. Thus, semantic translation attempts to reproduce the words rather than the sense, the letter not the spirit, the form rather than the message, while communicative translation makes a real try to reproduce the effect, the sense, the spirit, and the message of the text. The former is suitable for those who would like to study the techniques of the author.

P. Newmark also points out the kinds of texts that should be translated communicatively or semantically. Hereafter are two categories of texts arranged according to each method.

Communicative translation

1. Most non-literary writings.
2. Journalism
3. Informative articles and books
4. Textbooks
5. Reports
6. Scientific and technological Writings
7. Non-personal correspondence
8. Propaganda
9. Publicity
10. Public notices.
11. Popular fiction.

Semantic translation

1. Texts of original expression
2. Any important statements.
3. Autobiographies
4. Private correspondence
5. High personal effusions
6. High literature writings
7. Drama

In brief, semantic translation is used for expressive texts; communicative translation is used for informative and vocative texts.

In addition, there is an agreement that the central problem in translation is finding for the perfect equivalence in TL. Anyway, it is much realistic to certain degree of translation loss; that is, a TT will always lack certain cultural features that are presented in the SL. Of course, translation loss is inevitable. The challenge to the translator is thus not to eliminate translation loss, but to reduce it by deciding which of the relevant features in the ST is the most important to preserve, and which can most legitimately be sacrificed in preserving them. The translator should strive to reduce translation loss, to minimize difference rather than maximize sameness. In next pages, I will show some suggestions to translate English sentences, English unreal conditional ones, into Vietnamese.

CHAPTER 3: WAYS TO TRANSLATE UNREAL CONDITIONALS INTO VIETNAMESE

Basing on the background on translation introduced in the chapter II, I would like to give some ways to translate unreal conditionals and sentences with conditional words and other structures rather than “if” by using the two main methods: semantic and communicative translation.

I. Translation of unreal conditionals in the present.

It might be worth looking into the following examples:

If the world neglected Miss Sharp, she never was known to have done a good action in behalf of anybody. (1) [6:6]

If she did not get a husband for herself, there was no one else in the wide world who would take the trouble off her hands. (2) [6:17]

If he turned upon them, Mitsah would throw the stingy lash of the whip into his face (3). [8:....]

These sentences come from different sources by different authors. But they share the type of conditional. They are translated into Vietnamese by Vietnamese translators as follows:

Nếu cả thế giới bỏ quên cô Sacpơ, thì cô ta cũng chưa bao giờ làm điều tốt cho ai. [5:10]

Nếu cô không đích thân lo lấy một tấm chồng, thì trong cái thế giới bao la này chẳng có một ai cất hộ cô cái gánh ấy. [5:18]

Nếu nó quay lại để đàn áp bọn chó chạy đằng sau thì ngọn roi của Mía sẽ vụt vào nó. [1:....]

With the sentences (1) and (3), these translators have been faithful to the spirit of the original in terms of meaning and intention. Thus, semantic translation is applied to translate these sentences.

Besides using the equivalent subordinating correlatives in Vietnamese such as “*Nếu ...thì*” for “if”, there are still others such as: “*Ví thử*”, “*Giả thử*”, “*Giá ... thì*”, “*Tuy ... nhưng*” “*Ví như*”... Indeed, a number of practitioners share the view.

I am perfectly sure that if you, and I, and his sister were to die tomorrow, he would say Good God? [6:52]

(*Tôi cam đoan rằng ví thử ngày mai bà, tôi và con gái nó chết, nó sẽ nói “Đội ơn chúa”*) [5:74]

If Harry VIII or Bluebeard were alive now, and wanted a tenth wife, do you suppose he could not get the prettiest girl that shall be presented this season? [6:73]

(*Giả thử Harry đệ bát hoặc con yêu râu xanh còn sống đến bây giờ và muốn lấy đến người vợ thứ 10, các bạn cho rằng hẳn không thể nào cưới nổi người con gái đẹp nhất được vào châu trong Hoàng cung này không?*) [5:101]

If he had but a little more brains, I might take something of him [6:83]

(*Giá như anh ta thông minh hơn một chút, thì mình có thể giúp cho nỗi cơ đồ đấy.*) [5:111]

If she got no money from her brother - in -law, she got what was as good as money -credit. [6:103]

(*Tuy không được ông anh chồng cho tiền, nhưng Rebecca cũng được một thứ giá trị không kém gì tiền – tức là sự tín nhiệm.*) [5:121]

If we could put a couple of shots into 'em, they'd be more respectful. [8:32]

(*Ví như chúng ta có thể bắn vài phát đạn vào bọn chúng, có lẽ chúng phải dè chừng mà giữ khoảng cách.*) [1:51]

In fact, it is not difficult to see that communicative translation is applied to the translation of these sentences into Vietnamese. But when we use “*Ví thử*”, “*Giả thử*”, “*Giá ... thì*”, “*Tuy ... nhưng*” “*Ví như*”... instead of “*Nếu ...thì*” it has more

effective effect. By using these subordinating correlatives, it makes the readers easy to recognize that the condition in the “if” clause is unreal and fully expresses the intention of the original texts.

To thoroughly discuss this aspect, it is necessary to have a brief comparison between conditionals in English and in Vietnamese.

E.g.: Type1: *If she comes today, I will go with her.*

Type 2: *If she came today, I would go with her.*

And the two sentences are translated as:

“*Hôm nay nếu cô ấy đến, tôi sẽ đi với cô ấy*”.(4)

It is not difficult to recognize that if English unreal conditionals are simply translated into Vietnamese as “nếu ... thì”, it is hard to distinguish between real and unreal conditions in English. What is more, it is a real problem to translate the tenses of verbs in English unreal conditionals into Vietnamese as there are only three tenses of verbs in Vietnamese versus 17 tenses in English including the future tenses in the past. Looking at version (4), one can hardly determine whether the condition in the if - clause is real or unreal because the subjunctive form of the verb “đến” remains identical with its infinitive form. Whereas in English verb “come” is changed into “came” and can be realized easily. That is why in Vietnamese, the conditional sentences type 2 is only realized in particular context and situation. Thus, to make it clearer for the readers, I can translate these above sentences as:

Hôm nay nếu cô ấy đến, tôi sẽ đi với cô ấy.

Giá mà hôm nay cô ấy đến, tôi sẽ đi với cô ấy.

However, the translated versions (1), (2), (3) can still be accepted if they are put in particular contexts and situations which provide enough explanations for the reader to comprehend. For instance, in the paragraph below, the sentence “*if the world neglected Miss Sharp, she never was known to have done a good action in behalf of anybody*” has translated into Vietnamese by using the subordinating

correlative “*nếu thì*”. Why can the translator, Tran Kiem, translate the sentence in this way? It is very simple. Because the sentence is put in a particular context that anyone who reads the novel “Vanity fair” or anyone who reads the paragraph below can see who Miss Sharp is. She is an unkind woman, and she herself has never done a good thing for anybody. Therefore, although this sentence is not using the subordinating correlatives such as: “*Vì thử*”, “*Giả thử*”, “*Giá ... thì*”, “*Tuy ... nhưng*” “*Vì như*”, we can define that it is the second conditional.

“Miss Rebecca was not, then, in the least kind or placable. All the world used her ill, said this young misanthropist, and we may be pretty certain that persons whom all the world treats ill, deserve entirely the treatment they get. The world is a looking-glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly kind companion; and so let all young persons take their choice. This is certain, that if the world neglected Miss Sharp, she never was known to have done a good action in behalf of anybody.”

[6: 6]

“Vậy thì Rébecca chẳng hiền hòa, dịu dàng một chút xíu nào hết. Cô gái chán đời trẻ măng này bảo rằng cả loài người hành hạ cô; nhưng ta có thể tin chắc rằng kẻ nào bị cả loài người đối xử không ra gì, nhất định hoàn toàn xứng đáng với cách đối đãi như vậy. Cuộc đời là một tấm gương soi nó phản chiếu lại chính bộ mặt của bất cứ kẻ nào ngó vào. Cau mặt với nó, nó sẽ cau mặt giả với ta ngay; và cười với nó, nó lại sẽ thành ngay người bạn vui tính tốt bụng của ta; các bạn thanh niên hãy xem đó mà lựa chọn. Có điều chắc chắn rằng nếu cả thế giới bỏ quên cô Sạcơ, thì cũng chưa hề bao giờ cô ta làm tốt điều gì cho ai.”

[5: 10]

In conclusion, these translated versions are acceptable but we should pay attention of the if - clause in the process of translation so that we can express rightly the original intention of the writer. With the translation of this type, it is better for us to use subordinating correlatives such as “*Vì thử*”, “*Giả thử*”, “*Giá ...*

thì”, “*Tuy ... nhưng*” “*Ví như*”... instead of “*Nếu ... thì*”. And translation methods used are communicative and semantic translation.

II. Translation of unreal conditionals in the past.

As I have just mentioned in I, “if” has its subordinating correlatives in Vietnamese such as “*Nếu .. thì*”, “*Giả thử*”, “*Giả sử*”, “*Ví thử*”, “*Giả dụ*”... And in this part, “if” is also translated in the same way. But there is still difference between unreal conditional in the present and in the past, so it is necessary to make a comparison between them before the discussion of the translation of unreal conditionals in the past.

E.g. *If you did not live so far away, we would visit you more often.*

If the driver in front had not stopped so suddenly, the accident would not have happened.

It is easily understood the two facts “you live so far away” and “the driver in front stopped so suddenly”. The two sentences can be translated into Vietnamese as:

Nếu bạn không ở quá xa, chúng tôi sẽ đến thăm bạn thường xuyên hơn.

Nếu người lái xe phía trước không dừng lại quá đột ngột thì tai nạn đã không xảy ra.

It is not difficult for one to see that the subjunctive form of the verb “*ở*” (live) is identical with its infinitive form, so listeners cannot be sure whether the condition in the if-clause is negated or not. Furthermore, the verb form in the main clause is still the same as the simple tense “*sẽ đến thăm*” (will visit). It tells listeners no information about a hypothetical event. Rather, it is like a predictive one.

As a result, to strongly express a hypothetical condition, “*Giả mà/ giả sử/ ví thử/ giả dụ*” meaning “if” - is suggested to be used instead of “*nếu*” in written as well as in spoken Vietnamese. So the first sentence can be translated:

Giả du/ ví thử/ giả sử/ giả mà bạn không ở quá xa, chúng tôi sẽ đến thăm bạn thường xuyên hơn

Considering the second sentence in English, we can realize that the condition is hypothetical and it refers to the past time. It is quite simple for listeners to understand the true situation that “the driver in front stopped so suddenly” and that “the accident happened”. However, the form of “dừng” in the if-clause does not tell us exactly what time it refers to (present or past time). Only the form of the verb in the main clause “đã ... xảy ra” (...have happened) convinces them that the conditional sentence refers to the past.

Like the first sentence, “Giả mà/ giả sử/ ví thử/ giả dụ ” can be used in stead of “ nếu” and adverbial modifiers of time such as “rồi”, “đã” be added to strengthen the meaning of the hypothetical condition.

Ví thử/ Giả sử/ Giả dụ/ Giả mà người lái xe phía trước không dừng lại quá đột ngột thì tai nạn đã không xảy ra.

In brief, it is clear that in English there are some forms of verbs to express the meaning of the hypothetical conditional sentences whereas in Vietnamese the use of conjunctions (subordinating correlatives) and adverbial modifiers of time plays an important role in deciding the value of the whole sentence.

It is no doubt that the understanding of unreal conditionals in the past could bring about a more comprehensive view on the translation process. First, it is helpful to study the following English unreal conditionals in the past and the versions in Vietnamese.

If I had known that you were coming, I would have met you at the airport.

(Nếu tôi biết anh đến thì tôi đã đón anh ở phi trường rồi).

If he had been an attorney in a country town, with no capital but his brains, it is very possible that he would have turned them to good account.

(Nếu chỉ là một ông thầy biện ở tỉnh lẻ, vốn liếng không ngoài bộ óc, rất có thể lão đã dùng bộ óc ấy mà kiếm được khôi tiên). [5: 65]

With the two examples, the meanings and the unreal conditions in the past are effectively transferred. However, it would be better to examine more examples.

“My dear child, they would have loved you if you had had two hundred thousand pounds” George replied. [6: 99]

(George đáp: “Em ơi nếu em có 20 vạn đồng hồi môn thì họ vô vập em ngay”). [5: 125]

“If he had been an English nobleman traveling in a pleasure town or a newspaper courier bearing dispatches, he could not have traveled more quickly”
(4). [6: 279]

(Giả du anh ta là một nhà quý tộc đi du lịch đây đó cho thoả ý hoặc là một thông tin viên cần đưa tin về toà báo, anh ta cũng không thể đi nhanh hơn được.)
[5: 301]

It is obvious that the meaning and the hypothetical event are already mentioned. Still, if we only see the translated version, it is very difficult to realize the unreal condition in the past or not. Thus, basing the comparison between type 2 and type 3 above, the sentence (4) can be translated as:

(Giả du anh ta là một nhà quý tộc đi du lịch đây đó cho thoả ý hoặc là một thông tin viên cần đưa tin về toà báo, anh ta cũng đã không thể đi nhanh hơn được.)

This version has already transferred the structure, the tense and the intention of the author but the meaning seems to be ambiguous and strange to Vietnamese readers. Although it has lost the tense, to some extent, the first translation of the writer is seemingly smoother and more Vietnamese than the second one. Because this is the version in novel, its main aim is to convey the meaning and the structure to the readers provided that they can fully understand the content of the novels. So

the tense, in some extent, is not highly appreciated. That is the reason why the first translated version is acceptable.

To conclude, with unreal conditionals in the past we can use communicative translation. Given the context, the language of the writer as well as the readership, the translator should not always insist in keeping all the things of the original text and transfer them into the translated version. Otherwise, he may cause strangeness in his translation. In this case, when we can not reproduce exactly the intention of the original sentence, the translation loss happens. Certainly, translation loss should be minimized to the most but sometimes we have to accept it as a factor of translation process.

III. Translation of mixed conditionals

In previous chapter, according to my classification, mixed conditionals are combined by two clauses: one clause may be in conditional type 2 and the other may be conditional type 3.

Let's see third-second conditionals:

If I had caught that plane I would be dead now.

If I had gone to the party last night, I would be tired now.

These two examples can be translated as:

Nếu tôi đi chuyến bay đó thì bây giờ tôi đã chết rồi..

Nếu tôi đến bữa tiệc tối qua thì bây giờ tôi đã rất mệt rồi.

Considering the two translations it is easy to see that there is a shift between the original sentences and their translated versions. The verbs in these sentences, especially in the main clause, refer to hypothetical events in the past and have a perfect aspect. When transferring them into Vietnamese, besides using subordinating correlatives, we have to add adverbial modifiers of time such as “*đã, rồi*” to show the readers about hypothetical condition. Thanks to this shift the translated versions are more natural and smoother.

With the second-third conditionals, they also have the same way of translation. Besides using subordinating correlatives, we put “đã” right after the verb in the main clause and “rồi” at the end of the sentence.

E.g. *If I were smarter, I'd not have failed chemistry.*

(Nếu tôi thông minh hơn thì tôi đã không thi trượt môn hoá rồi).

In short, when translating mixed conditionals into Vietnamese, we should use semantic translation. In addition, we also have to deal with some changes by adding “đã”, “rồi” in the main clause to help the readers know about hypothetical condition and make the translated versions really natural.

IV. Translation of conditional inversions

As we have already known, when inversion occurs in conditional sentences, the words “were”, “had” and “should” are used instead of “if”. However, the way to translate these structures has no difference in comparison with the ones containing the word “if”. Compare,

If you should require anything, let me know.

Should you require anything, let me know.

With the two examples, we can translate them as:

Nếu câu có yêu cầu điều gì thì cho tôi biết với nhé.

There are many other examples containing the words “were”, “had” and “should” which share the same way of translation with the ones using the word “if”.

E.g. *If I were in his shoes, I wouldn't do like that.*

Were I in his shoes, I wouldn't do like that.

(Nếu tôi ở trong hoàn cảnh của anh ta, tôi sẽ không làm như thế.)

If he had tried to leave the country, he would have been stopped at the frontier.

(Nếu anh ta cố tình rời khỏi Tổ quốc, anh ta sẽ bị chặn lại ở biên giới).

According to specific context, we can translate the “if - clause” or the main clause first without affecting the meaning of the sentence.

So, with conditional sentences containing inversion, it is rather easy to translate them into Vietnamese because both inverted and normal structures always share the same translation version.

V. Translation of implied conditionals

We take into account some of the following examples:

But for him, it never would have taken place. [6: 95]

(Không có anh ta, mọi duyên khó thành tựu) [5: 120]

But for the stray-brown in his muzzle and above his eyes, and for the splash of white hair that ran midmost down his chest, he might well have been mistaken for a gigantic wolf, larger than the largest of the breed. [8: 14]

(Nếu không có mấy đốm nâu lác lông ở mõm nó và phía trên đôi mắt và cái vệt lông trắng chạy dọc ở chính giữa ức nó, thì người ta rất có thể nhầm tưởng nó là một con chó sói khổng lồ, lớn hơn cả con nhất của dòng họ sói.)

[1: 25]

Through these examples, we see that it is not at all complicated to translate sentences of this type in to Vietnamese. Here, “*but for*” is translated as “*Không có*” and “*Nếu không có ...thì*”.

In the first example, Trần Kiêm has translated the sentence by omitting Vietnamese subordinating correlatives “*nếu ...thì*” with no change of the sentence meaning. However, when doing like this, he has to keep the sentence order: “The implied conditional clause + the main clause” in his Vietnamese translation. If not, the translated version will be meaningless like this. “*Mọi duyên khó lòng thành tựu, không có anh ta.*”

But the implied conditional clause and the main clause in the second example are interchangeable in its Vietnamese version without changing its meaning. In this case, “thì” is omitted when the main clause is put at the beginning of the translated version. Thus, the second example can be translated as.

Người ta rất có thể nhầm tưởng nó là một con sói khổng lồ, lớn hơn cả con nhât của dòng họ sói nếu không có mấy đốm nâu lác lõng ở mõm nó và phía trên đôi mắt và cái vệt lông trắng chạy dọc ở chính giữa ức nó.

However, “but for” is translated differently in this sentence:

But for her, he might have wealth, station, education, and his father’s place, which the elder George had forfeited for her sake. [6: 123]

(Chính vì cô mà con trai không được hưởng sự giàu sang, cũng như học thức và địa vị của cha nó, chính vì cô mà xưa kia George bị gia đình từ bỏ.)

[5: 152]

In this sentence, “But for” is translated as “*Chính vì... mà*” and the verb in the main clause in translated version must be in negative form.

According to these comments, this implied conditional sentence

I would have been there on time, but I had a flat tire on the way.

can be translated as:

a. *Nếu không bị thủng xăm giữa đường(thì) tôi đã đến đó đúng giờ.*

b. *Không bị thủng xăm giữa đường, tôi đã đến đó đúng giờ.*

c. *Chính vì bị thủng xăm giữa đường mà tôi đã không đến đó đúng giờ.*

Nevertheless, with this implied conditional sentence, we have another translation.

Without your help, I never would have passed the exam.

(Chính vì sự giúp đỡ của bạn mà tôi đã vượt qua kỳ thi đó).

“Without” is translated as “*chính nhờ*” because the result clause or the main clause is positive.

In summary, we have a rule for translating this type of conditional sentences into Vietnamese like this.

Nếu không có, (thì)
Không có,
Chính vì mà không (negative result)
Chính nhờ mà (positive result)

And this way of translation makes me think of semantic and communicative translation.

VI. Translation of short conditionals

Like the translation of conditional inversions, it is not difficult to translate this type into Vietnamese.

Let's see these examples:

Jos, if not seriously alarmed as yet, at least considerably disturb in mind.

[6: 275]

Be gentle with those who are less lucky, if not more deserving. [6:321]

All these two examples are extracted from the novel "Vanity fair" by William Makepeace Thackeray. And Trần Kiêm has translated them as:

Nếu chưa đến mức hoảng sợ thực sự thì ít nhất Jos cũng thấy không yên tâm chút nào. [5: 300]

Hãy đối xử dịu dàng với những kẻ không được may mắn bằng mình, nếu không phải là xứng đáng được sung sướng hơn mình. [5: 352]

We can see that the translated versions are really smooth and natural. The translator has already rendered the nuance of meaning, the structure and the intention of the author. However, it is not wise to all the time insist on this way of translation. In some cases, we have to accept the translation loss to make the translation version really Vietnamese. For example,

And Rebecca scanning her as she felt, was, if possible, more bashful and awkward on the second visit which she paid to Mrs Rawdon than on her first call.

[6: 138]

(Nhưng đến lần thăm viếng thứ hai thì cô lại càng tỏ ra vụng về lúng túng, vì thấy chồng cứ ngó mình chằm chằm, còn Rebecca thì lại thỉnh thoảng liếc mắt nhìn mình soi mói). [5: 152]

She was, if possible, more radiantly beautiful than ever; and I could not believe that she was dead. [9: 193]

(*Có một điều rất lạ là thi thễ cô lúc này trông đẹp hơn bao giờ hết, khiến tôi không thể tin là cô đã chết*). [4: 220] We

clearly see that the two above sentences lose their short conditional clause when being translated into Vietnamese though the translators have tried their best. However, they have fully expressed the meaning conveyed in those sentences.

These sentences can be also translated as:

Và đến lần viếng thăm thứ hai này cô lại càng tỏ ra vụng về lúng túng hơn lần trước, khi thấy Rebeca, nếu có thể, lại liếc mắt nhìn mình soi mói.

Thi thễ cô ấy, nếu có thể, lúc này trông đẹp hơn bao giờ hết, khiến tôi không thể tin là cô đã chết.

These translated versions are possible in terms of expressing conditional events and meaning but they are really odd for Vietnamese people, especially novel readers who just pay attention to the works' content, education and aesthetics. Thus, we should follow the previous to make the translation versions really natural. And, it is communicative translation that is used in translating these sentences.

VII. Translation of other conditional words and structures rather than “if”.

1. Translation of other conditional words

In chapter I, I have just given some conditional words or conjunctions that can replace “if”

a. With “*unless*” = “*if...not*”, it has the Vietnamese equivalents as “*trừ phi*”, “*nếu không ...thì*” which are used to make a contrary condition; or in other words, a reversal relationship between reason (condition) and result.

Unless you work harder, you fail in the coming exam.

(Nếu bạn không học tập chăm chỉ hơn thì bạn sẽ rớt trong kì thi sắp tới.)

Similarly, “*Dù cho*”, “*cho dù*” and “*dù*” in Vietnamese are the equivalents for “*even if*” and “*even though*” in English. They used to express a thing that its result is difficult to be gained or an action contrary to the condition in which it occurs.

E.g. *Even if they have to work very hard, they feel optimistic.*

(Dù phải làm việc rất vất vả nhưng họ vẫn cảm thấy lạc quan)

And like a true Indian he settled down to trade carefully and slowly, even if it took all summer and the rest of the winter to dispose of his goods.

[1: 24]

(Là một người da đỏ chân chính, anh rất thận trọng và không chút vội vã trong việc làm ăn buôn bán, với ý định kiếm được nhiều tiền lời nhất với số hàng hoá của mình dù cho phải ở lại cả mùa hè hoặc cả mùa đông tiếp theo cũng được.)

[8: 36]

With “*in case*”, when being translated into Vietnamese, it is often rendered by “*vì...có thể*” or “*phòng khi*”.

Take into account these examples:

Some cyclists carry repair outfits in case they have a puncture.

This sentence can be translated as:

a. *Một số tay lái xe đạp mang theo đồ nghề sửa chữa vì họ có thể bị thủng lốp xe.*

b. *Một số tay lái xe đạp mang theo đồ nghề sửa chữa phòng khi họ bị thủng lốp xe.*

But “*in case*” is quite different with “*in case of*” which means “*if there is*” or “*nếu có*” in Vietnamese.

For example,

In case of accident, phone 999.

(Nếu có tai nạn hãy gọi 999)

With “*whether...or not*” = “*if...or not*”, it has the Vietnamese equivalent as “*Dù có... hay không*”

E.g. *You must go tomorrow whether you are ready or not.*

(Ngày mai cậu phải đi dù có sẵn sàng hay không)

In short, with sentences containing “*unless*” “*even if, even though*”, “*in case*” and “*whether...or not*”, we can use semantic translation or communicative translation

b. In previous chapter, I have just discussed several conjunctions ending with optional (that) which are used to talk about what might happen.

* First of all, I would like to mention about “*pretend (that), imagine (that), considering (that), suppose (that), supposing (that), assuming (that)*” which have the same meaning with each other and “if” respectively. So we just take “suppose” into consideration.

Normally, “*suppose*” is translated as “*giả thử*” in this sentence:

Suppose I had married Francis, who was so fond of me, I couldn't have been much poorer than I am now. [6: 205]

(*Giả thử mình lấy Francis làm chồng, anh chàng ngày xưa mê mình quá, cũng chưa chắc mình nghèo hơn.*) [5: 240]

However, it is translated rather differently in indirect speech:

Take into account these examples:

“*Suppose we go and have some jellies at Dutton's*” said Jos. [6: 106]

(*Jos nói “sao chúng mình lại không đi chén bánh ngọt ở quán Dutton nhỉ?”*) [5: 130]

“*Suppose you were to run on and tell her*” Dobbin said. [6: 281]

(*Dobbin nó: “Hay là cô chạy đến báo tin trước hộ nhé!”*) [5:301]

In these translated versions, we see the word “*nhỉ*”, or “*nhé*” which is “supplementary word” in Vietnamese added to the sentences to produce dramatic effects and express the speaker's manner. By doing this, the translator not only renders the intention of the author but also makes the translated version really natural and smooth.

To sum up, with the sentences containing these conditional words above, we should choose suitable version. Especially, when these words are in indirect speech, firstly we should understand the meaning of the sentence, then we use such structures as “*Sao...nhỉ*”, or “*Hay là... nhé*”. And it is the situation that makes the translator choose this structure or that structure when translating sentences into Vietnamese. And this way of translation makes me think of semantic translation.

* Besides these conditional words above, there are still other conjunctions like “*providing (that), provided (that), on condition (that), as long as / so long as*” which mean “*but only if*” or “*miễn là*”, “*miễn sao*” in Vietnamese. For example:

You can camp here provided (that) you leave no mess.

(Các bạn có thể cắm trại ở đây miễn là/miễn sao các bạn đừng có xả rác là được.)

Nevertheless, let’s see these examples taken from any book or novel:

“As long as there was an English army between Brussels and, Napoleon, there was no need of immediate flight” [6: 156]

“So long as that were not interfered with, they did not care what happened” [7: 37]

“Billee, the good - natured, could lead for all they cared, so long as he kept order”. [7: 37]

The first example was extracted from “Vanity fair” and was translated by Trần Kiêm as:

Chừng nào giữa Naoleon và thành phố Brussels còn có đạo binh Anh thì cũng chưa cần phải trốn đi ngay. [5: 192]

The last two examples were in the novel “The call of the wild” and were translated by Nguyễn Công Ái and Vũ Tuấn Phương as:

Chừng nào điều đó không bị ai quấy rầy thì có xảy ra việc gì cũng mặc, chúng chả cần để ý tới. [2: 53]

Ngay cả tên Bille lành như đất kia có lên làm chỉ huy thì chúng cũng chấp nhận thôi, chả việc quái gì phải thắc mắc nếu như nó duy trì được trật tự.

[2: 53]

Through these examples, we can see that “*chừng nào*”, “*nếu như-*” are Vietnamese equivalents for “*so long as / as long as*”. And the versions seem to be really smooth in terms of utterance of Vietnamese people. In addition, “*so long as*” has another equivalent like this:

Matt said “He’s no fool. Don’t dast tackle me so long as I got that club handy.” [8: 65]

(Matt nói “Nó không ngu dại lắm đâu và sẽ không tấn công tôi khi nào tôi còn cầm gậy trong tay.”) [1: 87]

In conclusion, when translating sentences with conditional words such as “*providing (that), provided (that), on condition (that), as long as / so long as*”, we should use their equivalents in Vietnamese mentioned above. And semantic and communicative are two translation methods applied to translate this type.

2. Translation of other structures

With “*otherwise*” or “*or (else)*” meaning “*if this doesn’t happen / didn’t happen / hadn’t happened*” or “*nếu không*” in Vietnamese, it is not difficult to translate sentences containing these words. For example:

I don’t know her address otherwise I would come to see her.

(Tôi không biết địa chỉ của cô ấy nếu không tôi sẽ đến thăm cô ấy)

So we should concentrate on the structure which use pronoun and the relative clause modifying generic nouns:

Let’s take this example into consideration:

Anybody who will take the trouble of looking back to a tile of the newspaper of the time must even now feel at secondhand this breathless pause of expectation.

[6: 207]

(Ngay cả bây giờ cũng vậy, giả có ai lật giở chồng báo cũ thời đó, hắn cũng vẫn còn cảm thấy như phải nín thở vì lo lắng.) [5: 240]

In this translated version, the meaning and the intention of the author have already expressed. The clause using pronoun “*anybody*” functions as the if - clause in a conditional sentence so the translator has used the structure in Vietnamese as “*Giả có ai ... hắn*” to translate the sentence. We also use other Vietnamese equivalents such as “*Nếu có ai ... hắn*”, “*Vì thử có ai ... hắn*”, “*Giả dụ có ai ... hắn*” without changing the meaning of the translated version but remaining the intention of the author. Similarly, with sentences containing generic nouns

modified by a relative clause, in which the relative clause also functions as the if - clause, it is possible to apply the above way of translation. For example:

Employers who do not consult their staffs cannot expect cooperation from them.

This sentence can be translated as:

a. *Nếu các ông chủ không tham vấn ý kiến các nhân viên của mình hãy không thể nhận được sự hợp tác từ họ.*

b. *Giá các ông chủ không tham vấn ý kiến các nhân viên của mình hãy có thể nhận được sự hợp tác từ họ.*

These two translated versions are really natural and smooth as well as have the same meaning. In Vietnamese, the word “*giá*,” is usually used to express a wish or an ambition, so when translating this example, we have to change the verb form from negative one into positive one and vice versa. If we translate this example without changing the verb form as:

c. *Giá các ông chủ không tham vấn ý kiến các nhân viên của mình hãy không thể nhận được sự hợp tác từ họ.*

The sentence (c) seems to be really odd to Vietnamese people. That is the reason why only the sentence (a) and (b) are accepted.

In conclusion, when translating sentences consisting the clause using pronoun or generic nouns modified by a relative clause which plays a function as the if clause in a conditional sentence, we should use Vietnamese structures mentioned above. Especially, when using other structures other than “*nếu ... hãy*” to translate sentences with generic nouns modified by a relative clause, we should remember to change the verb form from negative one into positive one and vice versa in the translated version. And this way of translation makes me think of communicative translation.

- With “hope” and “wish”

As I have just discussed in chapter I, “hope” indicates possibility and it is similar to future conditionals. “Wish” is used to say about things which are contrary to reality which means the idea after “wish” is unreal so it is redundant to

give further information on the kind of sentences with “*hope*”. So we just focus on sentences with “*wish*”.

In addition, sentences with “*wish*” appear more often in English, especially in everyday conversations.

Take into account some examples in the following:

“*I wish* you could have got a little money out of him!” Rawdon said to his wife moodily when Baronet was gone. [6: 214]

(Ông Nam tức đi rồi, Rawdon vui vẻ bảo vợ: “Giá mình moi được của hắn ít tiền thì hay quá”) [5: 253]

Rebecca said, laughing “*I wish* you could see someone Rawdon’s friends who are always about our door”. [6:106]

(“Chị ạ, giá chị được nhìn thấy mấy ông bạn quý giá của Rawdon lúc nào cũng rình ở cửa nhà em” Rebecca cười, nói). [5: 132]

Through examining the examples and their translated versions, we can see that the translator has fully rendered the unreal opinion and the speaker’s emotion by using “*giá*” and adding “*nhỉ*” or “*thì hay quá,*” in the versions. However, sometimes we still realize that the idea after “*wish*” is unreal by translating the sentence without using “*giá,*” For example,

Lady Jane said, with a sigh “*I wish* Mama would not insist on giving him so much medicine”. [6: 202]

(Cô nương Jane thở dài, đáp “Bà cụ tôi cứ bắt cháu nó uống thuốc nhiều quá?”). [5: 232]

Basing on the context and the speaker’s manner, we also can understand the idea after “*wish*” as “Giá bà cụ tôi đừng bắt cháu nó uống thuốc nhiều quá”.

In short, given the accuracy, clarity and naturalness, which are three indispensable factors of the translation process, we have to flexibly choose the appropriate ways of translation to produce the best translated version under consideration of a specific context and the intention of the original sentence. Thus,

when translating sentences with “*wish*”, we can use the communicative translation and add some words such as “*thì hay quá*”, “*quá*” to express the meaning of the sentence.

PART III

CONCLUSION

English grammar requires learners to take much time to master. Among them, conditional sentences are not an exception. Being a student of English, I find it important to have a deep understanding of conditional sentences, especially unreal conditionals and sentences concerned because they are widely used not only in study but also in everyday conversations and literature as well. The paper is divided into three chapters.

Within the scope of the study, chapter one reviews the theories of conditional sentences in English and sentences related to them. In this chapter, such theoretical items as the definition, classification of conditional sentences and some outstanding sentences with conditional words and other structures rather than “if” are mentioned. Chapter two introduces theoretical background on translation which helps readers have an insight in translation to apply to translate unreal conditionals.

Chapter three presented some main translation methods used in my study. Besides, by conducting an analysis on materials of grammar books and novels by different authors, I also suggest some practical ways of translation for students to translate only unreal conditionals and sentences with other words and structures rather than “if” into Vietnamese.

The paper, as an overview of the conditional in English, may do some value for Vietnamese learners of English during their learning process. However, mistakes and limitations in the study are unavoidable because of the limitation of time and lack of experience in doing research. I am very pleased to receive remarks and suggestions of all kinds from both the teachers and students to make it better.

Conditional sentence is a very difficult but interesting subject, especially when comparing its equivalent in Vietnamese and being translated into Vietnamese. However, due to unavailable time and other resources as well as lack of experience in doing research, I can't cover all the things concerning conditional sentences and ways of translating them into Vietnamese. Therefore, other in-depth study should be necessary. As a result, I would like to make following suggestions for further studies:

- Translating real conditionals into Vietnamese.
- Translating Vietnamese conditionals into English.
- Finding ways to study and translate conditional sentences in discourse level.

I do hope that these further studies will enhance translating capability of students in HPU and improve their command of the two languages.

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