

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



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NGÀNH: TIẾNG ANH

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**HAIPHONG PRIVATE UNIVESITY
FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**

GRADUATION PAPER

**A STUDY ON PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH
AND VIETNAMESE**

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Class:

NA1002

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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Họ và tên:.....

Học hàm, học vị:.....

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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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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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Truong Thi Bich Ngoc

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Adjective | Adj |
| Direct object | Od |
| Indirect object | Oi |
| Noun | N |
| Object | O |
| Preposition | Prep |
| Pronoun | Pro |
| Subject | S |
| Verb | V |

+ Brackets () around a number shows the number , the reference book listed in the references.

+ When there are two numbers inside the brackets separated by a semicolon : for example: (1;1): the first number shows book and the second number is the pages .

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

Nowadays, English has become the most widely used language all over the world. It is considered as the medium of communication in many different fields such as: science, technology, aviation, international sport, diplomacy, and so on . English is used as the working language of the Asian Trade group ASEAN and the official language of the European Bank. In fact, with the spread of globalization and the rapid expansion of information and technology, there has been an explosion in the demand for English worldwide .

In Vietnam, in recent years, the study of English has been gaining momentum firstly because it is an international language and secondly because it is also seen as a mean to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Vietnam and other countries. English is most widely taught at schools and universities. In learning English, learners have a lot of difficulties in vocabulary, pronunciation and so on especially grammar . Like all other languages, English grammar has a number of parts of speech including personal pronouns . Personal pronouns are known to be one of the first and easiest parts of speech taught in 1st English lesson. However, the fact shows that while learning English, especially Vietnamese, Vietnamese students and foreign ones have great difficulties in using and translating personal pronouns .

The things mentioned above are the reasons why “ **A study on personal pronouns in English and Vietnamese** ” is chosen for my graduation paper . I hope that it will be beneficial to learners of English and Vietnamese ,especially foreigners studying Vietnamese .

2. Aims of the study

This study is aimed at :

- Providing learners with the definitions of pronouns.
- Introducing kinds of pronouns and their uses.
- Finding and discussing some difficulties in using personal pronouns.
- Giving some suggestions for the above obstacles .

3. Methods of the study

- Consulting grammar books and web pages for definitions and concepts of pronouns, especially personal pronouns .
- Analyzing data and giving a lot of examples to make the study more understandable .
- Dicussing and analyzing some common factors effecting on translation

4. Scope of the study

Knowledge of English grammar is very immense ,so the study cannot cover all about personal pronouns and factors effecting on translation. In the study, the author has decided to give some following problems to study.

- + The definition of pronouns
- + The classification of pronouns
- + The use of pronouns ,especially personal pronouns
- + Some difficulties and factors effecting on translation of learners while using personal pronouns

5. Design of the study

This study is composed of 3 parts:

- Part 1 is introduction which consists of rationale, aims, methods, scope and design of the study.
- Part 2 is the development- the main part of this paper which is divided into three chapters :
 - Chapter one is theoretical background of pronouns with definition, classification, uses.
 - Chapter two shows detailed explanation of personal pronouns.
 - Chapter three indicates personal pronouns in comparison between English and Vietnamese .
- Part 3 is conclusion which summarizes what have been given in previous parts.

PART II

DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 1 : THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. The Definition of pronouns

❖ *Pronouns are form such as: **it, someone, these, they, them** used instead of nouns or noun phrases .*

[] Lisa likes cats. She has four cats .

(5 ; 24)

I like Tony . I know him well .

I have a red book . It is on my desk .

(2 ; 131)

A *pronoun* is a word used in place of a noun or noun phrases. Pronouns help avoiding unnecessary repetition in the writing and speech. A pronoun gets its meaning from the noun it stands for. The noun is called the *antecedent*. The *antecedent* comes from a Latin word meaning “to go before” .

[] Although Seattle is damp, it is my favorite city.

antecedent Pro

(6 ; 9)

2. The classification of pronouns

2.1. Personal pronouns

❖ *Personal pronouns function as replacement for nouns and noun phrases. The personal pronouns have two sets of case-forms :*

- *The subjective forms “I, you, he, she, it, we and they” are used as subjects of finite verbs in a sentence .*

[] My name is David . I am the youngest in the family .

N Pro=S

This is my father . He is a teacher .

N Pro=S

This is my mother. She is a lawyer .

N Pro=S

I have a dog . It is called Lucky .

N Pro=S

(4 ; 44)

- *The objective forms “me, you, him, her, it, us, them” are used as objects after verbs and prepositions .*

[] I am standing on my head . Look at me .

Pro=O

My mother is kind . Everybody likes her .

Pro=O

Lisa, I told you to tidy your bed .

Pro=O

Baby birds cannot fly. Mother bird has to feed them .

Pro=O

Tom likes riding my bicycle . I sometimes lend it to him.

Pro=O Pro=O

(4 ; 45)

2.2. Possessive pronouns

- ❖ *A pronoun used to show possession is called a possessive pronoun .The form of possessive pronouns “mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs” indicates a relationship to a person or thing .*

[]

It is my book.

(In this example , we can substitute “my book” for the possessive pronoun “mine” => It is mine.)

(3 ; 45)

- The possessive pronouns “*mine, yours.....*” are never used in front of nouns and are stressed in speech .

[] I cannot find my pen . Can you lend me yours ?

N

Pro

- The possessive pronouns can come at the beginning of a sentence and as a subject :

[] This is my cup . Yours is the one that is chipped .

Pro=S

(1 ; 81)

[] Theirs will be delivered tomorrow .

Pro=S

Ours is the green one on the corner .

Pro=S

(13)

- Possessive pronouns are very similar to possessive adjectives.

[] You can borrow my book as long as you remember that it is not

Possessive adj

yours .

Possessive Pro

=>The possessive “my” depends on the noun “book”.

=>The possessive “yours” is a pronoun which stands in the place of “your book”.

[] When you drive to Manitoba, will you take your car or theirs .

Possessive adj

Pro

=>The possessive “your” depends on the noun “car”

=>The possessive “theirs” stands in the place of the noun phrase

“their car” .

(13)

2.3. *Demonstrative pronouns*

❖ *The words “this, that, these and those” are demonstrative pronouns used to talk about people or things near or closely, connected to the speaker or further away.*

- [] This is my desk.
- That is my mother’s car
- These are my pets.
- Those are horses .

(5 ; 27)

- Demonstrative pronouns can be singular or plural :

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| This | These |
| That | Those |

(4 ; 49)

- “This” and “These” refer to an object or person NEAR the speaker .
- “That” and “Those” refer to an object or person further AWAY .

- [] This is unbelievable .
=>In this example, “this” can refer to an object or situation close in space or in time to the speaker .

- [] That is unbelievable .
=>In this example, “that” can refer to an object or situation farther in space or in time to the speaker .

- [] These are unbelievable .

=>In this example, “These” can refer to some objects *close* in space or in time to the speaker .

[] Those are unbelievable .

=>In this example , “those” can refer to some objects *farther* in space or in time to the speaker .

(13)

[] You take these bags and I will take those.

=>“Those” refers to bags that are at *a distance* from the speaker .

(16)

2.4. Indefinite pronouns

❖ *The words “all, any, anybody, anyone, anything, each, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, nobody, none, one, no one, nobody, nothing are indefinite pronouns. They refer to something that is not definite or specific or exact .*

[] Everybody is welcome at the meeting .

Few choose to live in the arid desert .

(5 ; 28)

I said nothing .

The house is empty . There is nobody living there .

(8 ; 266)

| Indefinite pronouns | Meaning | Example |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Anybody/anyone</i> | No matter what person | Can <u>anyone</u> answer this question ? |
| <i>Anything</i> | No matter what thing | The doctor needs to know if you have eaten <u>anything</u> in |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | the last two hours . |
| <i>Each</i> | Every one of two or more people or things ,seem separately | <u>Each</u> has his own thoughts . |
| <i>Everybody / Everyone</i> | All people | We can start the meeting because <u>everybody</u> has arrived |
| <i>Everything</i> | All things | They have no house or possessions . They lost <u>everything</u> in the earthquake . |
| <i>Nobody/no one</i> | No person | I phoned many times but <u>nobody</u> answered . |
| <i>Nothing</i> | No single thing , not anything | If you do not know the answer it is best to say <u>nothing</u> . |
| <i>Somebody/someone</i> | An unspecified or unknown person | Clearly <u>somebody</u> murdered him .It was not suicide . |
| <i>Something</i> | An unspecified or unknown thing | Listen!I just heard <u>something</u> .What could it be ? |
| <i>Many</i> | A large number of people or things | <u>Many</u> have come already . |
| <i>All</i> | The whole quantity of something or of some | <u>All</u> is forgiven. <u>All</u> have arrived. |

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|
| | things or people . | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|

Notes :

+ There is no noticeable difference in meaning and use between “-one” form and “-body” forms . They refer to both male(s) and female(s) .

+ These compounds : someone , anything..... (except *no one*) are normally written as one word .

(1 ; 86)

- Uses of “ some/any/no/every” compounds .

- **Some** : *Some* compounds are used in :

→ the affirmative :

I met someone you know last night .

→ questions expecting “yes” :

Was there something you wanted ?

→ offers and requests :

Would you like something to drink ?

(1 ; 86)

- **Any** : *Any* compounds are used :

→ in negative statements :

There is not anyone who can help you .

→ in questions when we are doubtful about the answer :

Is there anyone here who is a doctor ?

(1 ; 86)

- **No** : no compounds are used in affirmative statements .

There is no one here at the moment .

(= There is not anyone.....)

2.5. Reflexive pronouns

❖ The words “*myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves and themselves*” are reflexive pronouns . They refer to the noun or pronoun that is the subject .

[]

Be careful or you will cut yourself .

(5 ; 26)

It is our own fault .We blame ourselves .

If you want more to eat, help yourselves .

(8 ; 257)

- When a mixture of persons is involved , the reflexive forms to a 1st person or , if there is no 1st person, to a 2nd person :

[]

You , John, I must not deceive ourselves .

You and John must not deceive yourselves .

(9 ; 103)

- The indefinite *one* has its own reflexive as in

“One mustn’t fool oneself.”

But other indefinites use himself or themselves .

“No one must fool himself .”

(9 ; 103)

- Reflexive pronouns are used in three main situations :

- Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and object are the same

[]

I hurt myself.

S Pro=O

He cut himself.

S Pro=O

- They can be used as objects of ordinary verbs :

[] The boss gave himself a rise . (= gave a rise to himself)
V Pro=O

(1 ; 83)

- They are used as objects of prepositions :

→ Reflexive pronouns can occur after prepositions which often follow
V, N, Adj .

[] Lucy looks very pleased with herself .
Prep Pro=O

Look after yourself !
Prep Pro=O

(1 ; 83)

I bought a present for myself .
Prep Pro=O

That man is talking to himself .
Prep Pro=O

(15)

→ Or in combination with adverb particles : the reflexive comes
between the verbs (V) and the particle :

[] We gave ourselves up .
We pulled ourselves out (of the water) .

(1 ; 83)

- The reflexive pronouns used for emphasis normally come at the end of a sentence or a clause :

[] You heard the explosion yourself .

(1 ; 84)

I will do it myself .

They ate all the food themselves .

(15)

2.6. Interrogative pronouns

❖ The words “**who, whose, what, which and whom**” are interrogative pronouns . They are used to ask questions .In addition ,these pronouns may take the suffixes “-ever” .

[] Who used all my paper ?
What is your brother’s name ?
(5 ; 28)

Which books do you like best ?
(9 ; 106)

These pronouns could act as a subject,object or possessive in a sentence .

• **Who** : can be used to ask about people :

✓ As subject of a verb :

[] Who broke the window ?
Pro=S
(5 ; 28)

Who wote it ?

Pro=S

Who are you ?

Pro=S

(3 ; 56)

✓ As object of a verb or preposition :

[] Who are you invitting to your party ?
Pro= O

Who is Mom talking to ?

Pro=O

(5 ; 29)

• **Whom** : can be used to ask about people . It is less usual and more formal than “who” . *Whom* is used as the object .

[] Whom did the president criticize ?

Whom did you tell ?

(5 ; 29)

If you put the preposition before interrogative pronoun , you must “*whom*” :

[] Whom/Who is Mom talking to ?

To whom is Mom talking ?

(5 ; 29)

For whom will you vote ?

(13)

- **What** : can be used to ask about thing . It is used as the subject or the object .

[] What is your name ?

Pro=S

What do you want ?

Pro=O

- **Which** : can be used to ask people or thing. It is used as the subject or the object .

[] Which came first ?

Pro=S

Which will the doctos see first ?

Pro=O

(14)

Which girls do you like best ?

Pro=O

(9 ; 106)

- **Whose** : can be used to identify possession .

[] Whose is it ? => It is mine .

(3 ; 56)

Whose car did you drive ? =>Tom’s car .

(13)

- **Whoever, Whatever, Whichever**: When we add “-ever” ,we use it for emphasis ,often to show confusion or surprise .

- [] Whoever would want to do such a nasty thing ?
Whatever did he say to make her cry like that ?
They are all fantastic ! Whichever will you choose ?

2.7. *Relative pronouns*

❖ *Relative pronouns are “Who, Whom, Which, That, Whose, Where, When, What” . They are used to join clauses to make a complex sentence . Relative pronouns are used at the beginning of the subordinate clause which gives some specific information about the main clause .*

- [] He is the man who lives next door .
(1 ; 17)

We saw some people whose car had broken down .
(8 ; 290)

The hotel where we stayed was not very clean .
(8 ; 291)

- Relative pronouns can be used as subjects :

- [] People who/that go to university are not necessarily more
Pro=S
intelligent than people who do not .
(10 ; 185)

This is the photo which /that shows my house .

Pro=S

(1 ; 17)

- Relative pronouns can be used as objects :

- [] It was her car which/that Philip crashed into .
Pro(s)=O
(10 ; 185)

He is the man who/whom/that I met .

Pro(s) = O

This is the pan which/that I boiled the milk in .

Pro(s)=O

(1 ; 17)

They are the women who/whom/that I met on holiday .

Pro(s)=O

(1 ; 19)

Have you found the keys that you lost ?

Pronoun=O

(8 ; 287)

- Relative pronouns can be used as a possessive : (Whose/of which) whose is possessive relative pronoun in English . It can be used with both people and things .It is used as subject or object .

[] We arranged to meet at a place whose location was to be kept

Pro=S

secret .

(10 ; 185)

What is the name of the man whose car you borrowed ?

Pro=O

(8 ; 290)

The millionaire whose son ran away from home a week ago

Pro=S

has made a public appeal .

(1 ; 19)

He is the man whose car was stolen .

Pro=S

(1 ; 17)

It was an agreement the details of which could not be altered.

Pro=S

(1 ; 19)

2.8. Reciprocal pronouns

❖ We use the reciprocal pronouns to indicate that two subjects or more can carry out an action and get the consequences of that action at the same time .There are two reciprocal pronouns : “**each other , one another**”

- [] John likes Mary .
Mary likes John
=> John and Mary like each other .

(9 ; 104)

- There is a difference in meaning between **themselves** and **each other** after verbs such as accuse, blame, help, look at.

- [] The two bank clerks blamed themselves for the mistake .
(= They both took the blame .)
The two bank clerks blamed each other for the mistake .
(= The one blamed the other .)

(1 ; 83)

- [] Tom and Ann stood in the front of the mirror and looked at themselves .
(=Tom looked at Tom ;Ann looked at Ann .)
Tom and Ann stood in the front of the mirror and looked at each other .
(= Tom looked at Ann ; Ann looked at Tom .)

(8 ; 258)

CHAPTER 2 : PERSONAL PRONOUNS

1. The definition and forms of personal pronouns

❖ *A personal pronoun is a pronoun used to replace words for people , places , or things . (I, you,we, she.....) .*

+ The characteristics found in most personal pronouns refer to number, gender , and grammar person . A pronoun's form provides information about these characteristics .

(3 ; 40)

- Grammar person :
 - Person speaking .
 - Person spoken to .
 - Person or thing spoken about .
- Number :
 - Singular pronoun .
 - Plural pronoun .
- Gender :
 - Masculine pronoun .
 - Feminine pronoun.
 - Neuter pronoun .

(3 ; 41)

+ Every personal pronoun is classified by whether it is first , second , or third person .

→ First person pronoun is used in place of speaker or speakers .

I love America .

→ Second person pronoun is used in place of a person or persons spoken to .

You swim well .

(3 ; 42)

→ Third person pronoun is used in place of person(s) or thing(s) spoken about .

He loves hamburgers .

They visit the pool .

It is big .

(3 ; 42)

2. The classification of personal pronouns

2.1. The classification of personal pronouns by number

❖ *Personal pronouns show either singular or plural number .*

- Singular refers to one person or thing : I , you, he, she , it

- Plural refers to more than one person or thing : we, you, they

(3 ; 43)

[] John is here . He cannot stay long .

Singular

(1 ; 73)

Look at those cows ! They never stop eating .

Plural

(1 ; 74)

2.2. The classification of personal pronouns by gender

❖ *Three genders differentiate the third-person singular pronouns “ he, she ,it ” .*

- Masculine pronoun : “ **he** ”

[] Masculine nouns :

Mr .Miller

Man

Father => replace each noun with pronoun “**He**”

Actor

Bull

- Feminine pronoun : “ **she** ”

[] Feminine nouns:

Mrs. Miller

Woman

Mother => replace each noun with pronoun “*she*”

Actress

Cow

- Neuter pronoun : “*It*”

[] Neuter nouns

Locker

Ball => replace each noun with pronoun “*It*”

Towel

Lotion

(3 ; 44)

2.3. The classification of personal pronouns by grammar person

❖ *A personal pronoun shows by its form whether it refers to the **person speaking, the person spoken to, the person or thing spoken about** .*

(3 ; 41)

[] I love America .

Person speaking

You swim today .

Person spoken to

She is here . (Andy is talking about Kelly)

Person spoken about

(3 ; 42)

2.4. The classification of personal pronouns by usage

2.4.1. Subject personal pronouns

❖ *The subject of a verb does the action of the verb . The personal pronouns “**I , you, he, she, it, we and they**” can all be used the subject of a verb .*

[] Lisa likes cats . She has four cats .

We use this when we address another person , or two or more people .

[] Are you ready, Jill ?

S (*you* replaces for *Jill*)

(1 ; 74)

c) The third person singular masculine “**He**” :

“**He**” stands for a male person who has already been mentioned :

[] Do not expect David to accept your invitation.He is too busy.

S

(Pronoun *He* replaces for *David*)

(1 ; 74)

d) The third person singular feminine “**She**” :

“**She**” stands for a female person who has already been mentioned :

[] Ask Jennifer if she will be home in time for dinner .

S (pronoun *she* replaces for *Jennifer*)

e) The third person singular neuter “**It**” :

- “**It**” can refer to a thing , a quality, an event , a place, etc..:

[] That vase is valuable . It is more than 200 years old .

S (pronoun *It* replaces for a thing)

Loyalty must be earned .It cannot be bought .

S(pronoun *It* replaces for a quality)

Last night I ran out of petrol .It really taught me a lesson .

S(*It* replaces for an event)

You should visit Bath . It is not far from Bristol .

S(pronoun *It* replaces for a place)

(1 ; 74)

- We can use *It* to identify people :

[] There is a knock at the door .Who is it ? – It is the postman .

Who is that?- It is our new next door neighbour, Mr Smith.

S(pronoun *It* replaces for *Mr.Smith*)

- We also use *It* when we do not know the sex of a baby or child :

[] It is a lovely baby . Is it a boy or a girl ?

- We refer to an animal as *It* when the sex is not known or not worth identifying :

[] I am fed up with that dog of yours . It never stops barking .

(1 ; 74)

- “*It*” as an “*empty subject*” :

We often use *It* in sentences referring to time, the weather, temperature or distance .When used in this way , *It* is sometimes called an *empty subject* because it carries no real information . It is present because English sentence has to contain a subject and a verb .

[]

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Time: | <u>It</u> is 8 o'clock . <u>It</u> is Tuesday. <u>It</u> is May 25 th |
| It is time: | <u>It</u> time (for us) to leave . |
| Weather : | <u>It</u> is hot. <u>It</u> is raining. <u>It</u> rains a lot here . |
| Temperature : | <u>It</u> is 37° centigrade/Celsius . |
| Distance : | <u>It</u> is 20 miles to/from London . |
| The tides : | <u>It</u> is high tide at 11.44 . |
| Environment : | <u>It</u> is noisy/smoky in here . |
| Present situation : | Is not <u>it</u> awful ! Is not <u>it</u> a shame ! |
| With <i>since</i> : | <u>It</u> is three years <u>since</u> we last met . |
| With <i>say</i> : | <u>It</u> <u>says</u> here there was a big fire in Hove . |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| With <i>take</i> : | <u>It takes</u> (us) half an hour to get to work . |
|--------------------|--|

- “*It*” as a “*preparatory subject*” :

Sometimes sentences beginning with *It* continue with an infinitive , a gerund or a noun clause . It is possible to begin such sentences with an infinitive or gerund ,but we generally prefer *It* :

[] It is pleasant to lie in the sun.

S

(To lie in the sun is pleasant.)

It is pleasant lying in the sun .

S

(Lying in the sun is pleasant .)

It is a shame that Tom is not here.

S

(That Tom is not here is a shame.)

It does not matter when we arrive .

S

(When we arrive does not matter .)

⇒ The true subject in the above sentences with *It* is the infinitive , gerund or noun clause and *It* is a preparatory to the subject.

It as a preparatory subject often combines with :

Adj : difficult , easy, important, vital:

It is easy (for me) to make mistakes .

N : fun, a pity , a pleasure , a shame :

It is a pleasure (for us) to be here .

V : appear, happen, look , seem :

It appears that he forgot to sign the letter .

It now looks certain that the fire was caused by a cigarette end .

(1 ; 78)

- The use of “*It*” in “*cleft sentences*” :

We can begin sentences with *It is* or *It was* + *S* + *that* or *who(m)*, If we wish to emphasize the word or phrase that follows . Sentences formed in this way are called cleft sentences because a simple sentence is split up (cleft) into two clauses using the *It*-construction :

[] Freda phoned Jack last night.(simple sentence ,no emphasis)

It was Freda who phoned Jack last night. (and not Rita)

It was Jack who(m) Freda phoned last night . (and not Richard)

It was last night that Freda phoned . (and not this morning)

(1 ; 79)

- f) The first person plural “*We*” (two or more person) :

-*We* can include the listener or not :

Let’s go, shall we ? (including the listener)

We are staying here.What about you?(not including the listener)

-*We* is often used to mean “anyone/everyone” ,for example
,in newspaper:

We should applaud the government’s efforts to creat more jobs.

-*We* is used in the same way in general statements :

We all fear the unknown .

(1 ; 74)

- g) The third person plural “*They*” (two or more people, things, etc.):

-*They* can stand for persons , animals or things already mentioned :

[] John and Susan phoned . They are coming round this evening.

Look at those cows ! They never stop eating .

Our curtains look dirty . They need a good wash .

(1 ; 74)

-*They* can be used in general sentences to mean *people* :

They say(or people say) oil prices will be going up soon .

-*They* is also commonly used to refer to *the authorities* :

They are putting up oil prices again soon .

-*They* is also used to mean *someone else , not me* :

If you ask at Reception , they will tell you where it is .

(1 ; 75)

2.4.2. *Object personal pronouns*

❖ *The object of a verb receives the action of the verb .The personal pronouns “me, you, him ,her, it, us and them” can all be used as the object of a verb .*

Lisa likes cats . She likes to stroke them .

V O V O

In the first sentence, the noun *cats* is the object of the verb *likes*

In the second sentence, the pronoun *them* is the object of the verb *stroke* .

[] I am doing my homework. Dad is helping me .

V O

Good bye, children! I'll call you later .

V O

Where is John ? I need to speak to him.

V O

Miss Garcia is very nice. All the children like her .

V O

The car is very dirty . Mom is cleaning it .

V O

Uncle Harry called Mary to ask her a question.

V O

My chocalates are all gone . Someone has eaten them .

V O

(5 ; 25)

- Object pronouns replace nouns in object positions . They can be :

-*Direct objects* : Have you met Marilyn? I have never met her .

Od

- *Indirect objects* : If you see Jim, give him my regards .

Oi

- *Objects of prepositions* : I really feel sorry for them .

Prep O

(1 ; 75)

- Object pronouns after “*be*” :

Object pronouns are normally used in preference to subject pronouns after “*be*” in everyday speech :

[] Who is it ? – It is me/him/her .

(1 ; 75)

- Object pronouns (especially “*me*”) *as subject* :

-Subject pronouns (I, she,etc.) are not normally used by themselves or in short answers with *not* . Object pronouns are used instead :

[] Who wants a ride on my bike ? – Me/Not me !

-An object pronoun can also occur as a subject of a particular kind of exclamatory question for stress or emphasis :

[] You can tell him. – Me tell him? Not likely !

-“*Me*” occurs very informally in “cleft sentences” :

[] Do not blame Harry . It was me who opened the letter .

(1 ; 75)

**CHAPTER 3 : PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN COMPARISON
BETWEEN IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

1. Comparision in definition

-Both English personal pronouns and Vietnamese personal pronouns are used to address .

-English and Vietnamese personal pronouns show either singular or plural number .

| | English | Vietnamese |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| The first person singular | I | Tôi, tao , tớ, mình..... |
| The first person plural | We | Chúng tôi, chúng tao, chúng tớ, bọn mình..... |
| The second person singular | You | Mày ,cậu |
| The second person plural | You | Chúng mày ,các cậu |
| The third person singular | She, he, it | Nó ,y , hắn |
| The third person plural | They | Họ, chúng nó |

2. Comparision in usage

➤ Both English and Vietnamese pronouns can be subject or object in a sentence .

a. Personal pronoun as a subject .

| Vietnamese | English |
|---|---|
| <p>“Tôi” :Vietnamese words denoting the first personal pronoun are plentiful: “tôi,ta,minh ,tao,trẫm...”</p> <p><u>Tôi</u> là bác sĩ .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Con</u> đang học tiếng anh .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Con</u> yêu mẹ .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Tôi</u> thích chơi với bạn .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Chị</u> thích chơi với em .</p> <p>S</p> | <p>“I” :When we talk about ourselves , we only have personal pronoun “I” .</p> <p><u>I</u> am a doctor.</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>I</u> am learning English .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>I</u> love you , mummy .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>I</u> like to play with you</p> <p>S</p> |
| <p>“Bạn”: is used the same as “you” in English but there is difference between speaking to one person and speaking</p> | <p>“You” : is used to address another person , or two or more persons .There is not the difference between speaking to one person and speaking</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>to many persons .</p> <p><u>Anh</u> là người bạn tốt nhất của tôi .</p> <p>S(one person)</p> <p><u>Các câu</u> có thể chạy nhanh hơn tớ .</p> <p>S(two or more person)</p> <p><u>Câu</u> phải làm bài tập về nhà .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Con</u> cần phải về nhà trước 8 giờ tối</p> <p>S</p> | <p>to many person .</p> <p><u>You</u> are my best friend .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>You</u> can run faster than me .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>You</u> have to do your homework .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>You</u> need to go home before 8 p.m</p> <p>S</p> |
| <p>“anh ấy/chị ấy/nó”</p> <p><u>Chị ấy</u> là bạn tôi .</p> <p>S(female)</p> <p><u>Anh ấy</u> là bạn tôi .</p> <p>S(male)</p> <p><u>(Em gái tớ)nó</u> học rất giỏi tiếng anh.</p> <p>S(female)</p> <p><u>(Em trai tớ)nó</u> rất cao .</p> <p>S(female)</p> | <p>“He/she/it”</p> <p><i>He: is used for male .</i></p> <p><i>She: is used for female .</i></p> <p><i>It: is used for things</i></p> <p><u>She</u> is my friend .</p> <p>S(female)</p> <p><u>He</u> is my friend .</p> <p>S(male)</p> <p><u>She</u> is very good at learning English.</p> <p>S(female)</p> <p><u>He</u> is very tall .</p> <p>S(female)</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Nó</u> là cái bút của tớ .</p> <p>S(thing)</p> | <p><u>It</u> is my pen .</p> <p>S(thing)</p> |
| <p>“Chúng tôi / chúng ta / chúng cháu / chúng tớ”</p> <p><u>Chúng tôi</u> là người Việt Nam .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Chúng cháu</u> là sinh viên .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Chúng ta</u> là nhà vô địch .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Chúng tớ</u> có thể làm tất cả .</p> <p>S</p> | <p>“We” : is used to talk about yourself and others person .</p> <p><u>We</u> are Vietnamese .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>We</u> are students .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>We</u> are the champions .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>We</u> can do everything .</p> <p>S</p> |
| <p>“Họ”</p> <p><u>Họ</u> là những cầu thủ giỏi .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Họ</u> đang hát karaoke .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>Những quyển sách</u> đây là của tớ .</p> <p>S</p> | <p>“They” is used to talk about a group of people or thing without distinguishing male or female .</p> <p><u>They</u> are good player .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>They</u> are singing karaoke .</p> <p>S</p> <p><u>They</u> are my books .</p> <p>S</p> |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Các ông bà ấy là người Trung Quốc.</u> | <u>They are Chinese .</u> |
| S | S |

b. Personal pronoun as an object .

➤ Object personal pronouns are personal pronouns in object positions. Their functions are to modify for verbs or prepositions .

[] I will call for you .

V O

(In this sentence , “you” is object personal pronoun modifying for verb “call” .)

[] Chị ấy đưa tớ quyển sách .

V O

(In this sentence, “Tớ” is object personal pronoun modifying for verb “Đưa” .)

| Subject personal pronouns | Object personal pronouns | Vietnamese |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| I | Me | Tôi/ tớ |
| You | You | Cậu/ấy/các cậu |
| He | Him | Anh ấy |
| She | Her | Chị ấy |
| It | It | Nó |
| We | Us | Chúng tôi/Chúng tớ |
| They | Them | Họ |

➤ In English , object personal pronouns can change forms depending on thing or people spoken to .But in Vietnamese , object personal pronouns do not change in comparison with subject personal pronouns .

➤ We can compare the following sentences :

-In Vietnamese :

[]

Hôm qua, tớ gọi điện cho chị ấy .

S O

Hôm qua , chị ấy gọi điện cho tớ .

S O

(In the first sentence, “Tớ” is subject personal pronoun and “Chị ấy” is object personal pronoun .

In the second sentence , “Chị ấy” is subject personal pronoun and “Tớ” is object personal pronoun .)

=> “ Tớ” and “Chị ấy” :two those personal pronouns do not change forms although their grammar functions are changed .

-In English : The above sentences will be translated into English as follow :

[]

Yesterday, I called her . (hôm qua , tớ gọi điện cho chị ấy)

S O

Yesterday, she called me .(hôm qua, chị ấy gọi điện cho tớ)

S O

=>It can be easily recognized that “I” → “me” and “she” → “her” when their grammar functions are changed from subject to object .

3. Some factors effecting on translating personal pronouns into Vietnamese

3.1. The factor of age

“Age” is one of the important factors in communication of Vietnamese. In English , we only have two personal pronouns “I and You” to use while communicating with anyone regardless of caring about his/her age . But when the Vietnamese meet or speak to anyone :

- as old as his/her grandfather , he/she will use the form “ông – cháu”
- as old as his/her grandmother, he/she will use the form “bà – cháu”
- as old as their father or mother,they will use the form “cô, chú, bác.....- cháu”.
- as young as him/her , he/she will use “anh/chị”
- younger than him/her , he/she will use “em”

□

The old man asked a little boy :

“What are *you* doing?” – “ I am waiting for my mother .”

=>In Vietnamese:

“*Cháu* đang làm gì vậy ?” –“*Cháu* đang đợi mẹ cháu .”

3.2. *The factor of social status*

Social status, class distinction, differences between the rich and the poor also have great influences on translation .

□

Extract from “An out and out bungler”

| English | Vietnamese |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">An out-and-out bungler</p> <p>.....The bungling official saw these posters and scolded his subordinates . “Outside there are official notices everywhere, saying there are many bunglers throughout the county. Why are not <u>you</u> out there them ?” He said</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Kẻ hậu đậu</p> <p>.....Ông quan nhìn thấy những câu thơ đó và chửi mắng những lính hầu của mình. “Ngoài kia đâu đâu cũng có những tờ giấy viết những câu thơ nói về những tên hậu đậu trong huyện. Tại sao <u>chúng bây</u> không ra bắt những tên</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>to one of his messengers . “ <u>I</u> will give <u>you</u> three days to arrest at least three bunglers . If <u>you</u> are one short, <u>I</u> will have no mercy!”</p> <p>.....Hearing the bungling official’s muddled talk the messenger knelt down and reported , “ <u>I</u> have found the third bungler .”</p> <p>“Who? Go fetch him quickly.” said official .</p> <p>“ When the next county official arrives, <u>I</u> will fetch him at once.” answered the messenger .</p> | <p>đó ?” Viên quan bảo một tên lính: “ <u>Ta</u> sẽ cho <u>nhà người</u> ba ngày đi bắt về đây ít nhất ba tên hậu đậu. Nếu thiếu một tên <u>ta</u> sẽ trừng phạt <u>nhà người</u> !”</p> <p>.....Nghe những lời ngu ngốc của tên quan huyện hậu đậu, anh lính quỳ xuống thưa “Bẩm quan, <u>con</u> đã tìm được kẻ hậu đậu thứ ba rồi .”</p> <p>Quan bảo: “Thằng nào? Đi bắt hắn về ngay đi .”</p> <p>Anh lính đáp: “Khi ông quan huyện của huyện bên đến, <u>con</u> sẽ bắt hắn ngay .</p> |
|--|--|

(11 ; 30)

We can see that in the extracts above :

- “ *I* ” is not translated “ *Tôi* ” . It is translated “ *Ta* ” for the county official because it shows his position and power , he is upper class .

“ *I* ” is translated “ *Con* ” for messenger because he is only servant and has to show his respect to his boss .

- “ *You* ” is not translated “ *Bạn /cậu* ”. It is translated “ *chúng bây, nhà người* ” because it shows his disdain to his servants .

[]

Extract from the story “ Jane Eyre ” :

Rochester: “ I love you! You, small and poor and plain, I ask you to marry me!”

Jane: “You want to marry me? I cried, almost beginning to believe him. But I have no friends , no money, no family .”

Rochester : “Tôi yêu em ! Em, một người con gái nhỏ bé, nghèo và giản dị. Tôi muốn hỏi cưới em !”

Jane : “Ông muốn cưới em? Tôi nói đầy vẻ ngạc nhiên và tôi bắt đầu cảm thấy tin ông. Nhưng em không có bạn bè, không có tiền bạc và cũng không có gia đình .”

(7 ; 196)

=> Generally, when two people in love, male person use the word “Anh” and female person use the word “Em” . So the following sentence :

“*I love you*” is often translated “ *Anh yêu em*”

“ *You want to marry me?*” is translated “ *Anh muốn cưới em?*”

But in the story “Jane Eyre” : Jane is a young girl , Rochester is a rich man and is about twenty years old older than her .There are a big gap between the rich and the poor ,class distinction between them . So ,in the conservation above

“ *I love you*” is translated “ *Tôi yêu em*”

“ *You want to marry me ?*” is translated “ *Ông muốn cưới em ?*”

3.3. *The factor of kinship*

Kinship terms in Vietnamese is plentiful and complicated which causes many difficulties for foreigners learning Vietnamese .Such as :with pronoun “I” can be translated “chú , cháu ,bác ,anh, em....”

[]

In spousal relationship : There are many ways to address between husband and wife : “Anh – em” , “Tôi – mình”

| English | Vietnamese |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Nothing in the head</p> <p>A scholar was preparing to take the civil examinations. His wife was very puzzled by his constant worrying . -“Look at <u>you</u>, <u>you</u> worthless wretch,” she said . “<u>You</u> probably think that it’s more difficult for a man to write an</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Không có gì trong đầu .</p> <p>Một anh học trò sắp sửa trải qua kỳ thi. Vợ anh ta rất lúng túng . Người vợ nói lời an ủi khi thấy anh ta lo lắng triền miên : -“ Nhìn <u>mình</u> kìa, <u>mình</u> trông thật khốn khổ. Chắc là <u>mình</u> nghĩ rằng đàn ông viết văn khó hơn</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>essay than for a woman to give birth to a child .”</p> <p>“It is easy for you women to give birth to children,” the scholar sighed.</p> <p>-“How is that ?” She asked .</p> <p>-“<u>You</u> can bear children easily because <u>you</u> carry the child in your stomach,” the scholar said. “But <u>I</u> have nothing in my head, so how do <u>you</u> expect <u>me</u> to think of something to write?”</p> | <p>một phụ nữ sinh con à ,”</p> <p>Anh học trò thở dài : “ Người phụ nữ sinh con thì dễ dàng hơn nhiều .”</p> <p>Cô vợ hỏi : “ Dễ như thế nào”</p> <p>“ <u>Mình</u> có thể sinh con dễ dàng vì <u>mình</u> có đứa con trong bụng . Còn <u>tôi</u> chẳng có gì trong đầu, vì vậy làm sao mà <u>mình</u> mong <u>tôi</u> nghĩ ra điều gì để viết chứ ? ”</p> |
|--|--|

(11 ; 75)

-In this example ,the address forms of this couple is “ *Mình – Tôi*”

-We can see that pronouns “ *I and me*” are translated “ *Tôi*” to refer to husband .

-Pronoun “ *You* ” is translated “ *Mình* ” but “ *Mình* ” refers to both husband and wife

:

“Look at you, you worthless wretch,”

=>“Nhìn mình kia,mình trông thật khôn khô,”

(In this sentence , “ *Mình*” refers to husband .)

“You can bear children easily because you carry the child in your stomach.”

=> “Mình có thể sinh con dễ dàng vì mình có đứa con trong bụng .”

(In this sentence, “ *Mình*” refers to wife .)

[]

In parents – children relationship : There are a lot of address forms between parents and children ,such as : “ *Bố/mẹ – con*” , “ *Ba/má – con*” , “ *thầy/tía/u/bà – con*”

| English | Vietnamese |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| What do <u>you</u> want from <u>me</u> ? | Thế <u>con</u> cần gì ở <u>me</u> ? |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>The bride, upon her engagement, went to her mother and said, “ <u>I</u> have found a man just like father !”</p> | <p>Cô dâu trong buổi lễ đính hôn bước đến chỗ bà mẹ: “ <u>Con</u> đã tìm được một người đàn ông giống y như bố .</p> |
| <p>Her mother replied: “ So what do <u>you</u> want from <u>me</u>, sympathy ?”</p> | <p>“ Thế giờ <u>con</u> cần gì ở <u>me</u> đây? sự thông cảm chắc ?”</p> |

(12 ; 255)

-In this example , the address form is “*Mẹ - Con*” .

-We can see that pronoun “*I*” and “*You*” are translated “*Con*”:

“I have found a man just like father.” : In this sentence, pronoun “*I*” is translated “*Con*” because it refers to the bride in this conversation .She is person speaking .

“What do you want from me ?” : In this sentence , pronoun “*you*” is translated “*Con*” because it also refers to the bride . The bride is listener and her mother is person speaking . And pronoun “*me*” is translated “*Mẹ*” .

3.4. The factor of attitude of person speaking and listener

The factor of attitude has rather important influence on address forms of the Vietnamese .For the English while talking to another , they only use two pronouns “ I and You” no matter how they feel :happy, angry ,disdainful or respectful, and so on. Whereas the same personal pronouns can be translated into Vietnamese differently depending on the attitude of person speaking and listener .

[]

In spousal relationship :

+When they are happy and they love one another :

“anh – em / em – mình / tôi – mình/ cậu - tớ / bố nó - mẹ nó / thầy nó – em / đảng này - đảng ấy.....

+When they are angry :

“ anh – tôi/ tôi – cô/mày – tao/ông – tôi/

+We can see the following sentence :

In English : “Where are *you* ?What are *you* doing ?”

In Vietnamese :

“Em ở đâu thế ? Em đang làm gì vậy ?” (happy)

“Cô đang ở đâu ? Cô đang làm gì ?” (angry)

□

In friendship :

+ Normally , when two friends talk to each other ,they use address forms “Bạn - tớ /cậu - tớ/cậu - mình”

+When they are angry ,they will use “ mày – tao”

In English : “What do *you* want ?”

In Vietnamese : “ *Cậu* muốn/cần gì ?” (normal)

“ *Mày* muốn /thích gì ?” (angry)

□

When speaking to a thief , everyone often hates and disdains him .

“ He is a liar , a thief .We need to be vigilant with him.”

=>”Hắn ta là kẻ dối trá , một tên trộm cắp . Chúng ta cần cảnh giác với hắn .”

We can see pronouns “*He and him*” are not translated “ *Anh ấy*” and these pronouns are translated “ *Hắn , kẻ*” . This shows disdain with the thief .

PART III

CONCLUSION

It is undeniable that knowing fluent English is more and more essential in today world .And the fact shows that half of the world's books are written in English ,over sixty percent of the world's radio programs are broadcast in English, and more than seventy percent of all international mails are written in English, more eighty percent of all computer texts are stored in English . The demand for studying English is increasing rapidly .And it is obvious that grammar is considered as one of the most important aspects to be learnt to master English.

“Personal pronoun” is one of the small areas in English grammar, yet it is rather interesting for many grammarians ,teachers and learners to study . Personal pronouns in English are quite simple , including **“I, you , we, they, she, he ,it** and variants of them by person, number, gender : **me,you, us, them her,him,it .”** The first person “I” and the sencond person “You” are often used widely when speaking or writing to anyone without distinguishing age ,sex ,social status, relationships between the person speaking and the listener . However, when those pronouns are translated into Vietnamese , learners have to consider carefully in order to choose suitable pronouns for each situation .

For the above mentioned reasons, the writer has decided to do a study on comparing forms and uses between English and Vietnamese personal pronouns. This paper includes three main parts :

The rationale, aims, methods, scope, and design are mentioned in part one with the aims that the reader could have an overview of the sudy .

Part two includes three chapters .Basing on the theoretical background of English grammar about pronouns in chapter one , chapter two analyzes clearly some features, uses of personal pronouns .Then some difficulties in using personal pronouns of learners in reading and translating processes are given in chaper three .

Part three summarizes main ideas mentioned in previous parts .

This wrtiting is the author's the first step on language study with limited time and knowledge so mistakes are unavoidable .She hopes to be sympathized and given support and encouragement. All remarks, comments and contributions to her writing will be highly appreciated .

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