

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



ISO 9001:2015

KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP

NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH

Sinh viên : Đoàn Thị Quỳnh

Giảng viên hướng dẫn : Ths. Nguyễn Quỳnh Hoa

HẢI PHÒNG – 2020

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

A STUDY ON SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS IN ENGLISH

**KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP ĐẠI HỌC HỆ CHÍNH QUY
NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH**

Sinh viên : Đoàn Thị Quỳnh

Giảng viên hướng dẫn : Ths. Nguyễn Quỳnh Hoa

HẢI PHÒNG - 2020

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

NHIỆM VỤ ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP

Sinh viên: Đoàn Thị Quỳnh

Mã SV: 1512751011

Lớp: NA1901A

Ngành: Ngôn Ngữ Anh

Tên đề tài: A study on Synonyms and Antonyms in English

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).

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.

.....

.....

.....

CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP

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 ... tháng năm

Yêu cầu phải hoàn thành xong trước ngày tháng năm

Đã nhận nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

Sinh viên

Đã giao nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

Người hướng dẫn

Hải Phòng, ngày tháng.....năm 20..

Hiệu trưởng

GS.TS.NGŨT *Trần Hữu Nghị*

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc

PHIẾU NHẬN XÉT CỦA GIẢNG VIÊN HƯỚNG DẪN TỐT NGHIỆP

Họ và tên giảng viên:

Đơn vị công tác:

Họ và tên sinh viên: Chuyên ngành:

Nội dung hướng dẫn:

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

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2. Đánh giá chất lượng của đồ án/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...)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3. Ý kiến của giảng viên hướng dẫn tốt nghiệp

Được bảo vệ Không được bảo vệ Điểm hướng dẫn

Hải Phòng, ngày ... tháng ... năm

Giảng viên hướng dẫn

(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc

PHIẾU NHẬN XÉT CỦA GIÁO VIÊN CHĂM PHẢN BIỆN

Họ và tên giảng viên:

Đơn vị công tác:

Họ và tên sinh viên: Chuyên ngành:

Đề tài tốt nghiệp:

.....

.....

1. Phần nhận xét của giáo viên chăm phản biện

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Những mặt còn hạn chế

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Ý kiến của giảng viên chăm phản biện

Được bảo vệ Không được bảo vệ Điểm phản biện

Hải Phòng, ngày ... tháng ... năm

Giảng viên chăm phản biện

(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)

Table of content

Part 1: Introduction.....	1
1.Rationale.....	1
2.Aims of the study.....	1
3.Scope of the study	1
4.Methods of the study	1
5.Design of the study	2
Part II: DEVELOPMENT	3
Chapter I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	3
1. Synonyms in English.....	3
1.1 Definition.....	3
1.1.1 Condition	3
1.1.2 Synonymic group.....	5
1.2 Sources of synonyms	6
1.2.1. Borrowings	6
1.2.2 The change of meaning (especially metaphor and metonymy).....	6
1.2.3 Word-building	6
1.3 Classification of Synonyms	7
1.3.1 Absolute synonyms	7
1.3.2 Semantic synonyms	7
1.3.3 Stylistic synonyms.....	7
1.3.4 Semantic-stylistic.	7
1.3.5 Phraseological synonyms.....	8
1.3.6 Territorial synonyms.	8
1.3.7 Euphemisms	8
1.4 Lexical variants and paronyms	9
2. Antonyms in English	10
2.1. Definition.....	10
2.2. Classification of antonyms.	12
2.2.1. Based on the meaning.....	12
2.2.1.1 Graded antonyms	12
2.2.1.2. Complementary antonyms	14
2.2.1.3. Conversive antonyms	14
2.2.1.4. Directional antonyms.....	16
2.2.2 Based on the derivation.	16
2.2.2.1. Root - word antonyms	16
2.2.2.2. Derivational antonyms.....	17
2.2.3. Based on the part of speech	17

2.3 Full and empty words	20
3. Vietnamese synonyms and Antonyms.....	21
3.1 Vietnamese synonyms	21
3.1.1 Definition and characteristic features.....	21
3.1.2. Classification	21
3.2 Vietnamese antonyms.....	25
3.2.1. Definition.....	25
3.2.2. Classification	25
3.2.3 Structure of Vietnamese antonyms.....	26
Chapter 2: Comparing Synonyms and Antonyms in Vietnamese and English.	28
2.1 Comparing Vietnamese Synonyms and English Synonyms	28
2.1.1 Collate semantics of synonyms in English and Vietnamese	28
2.1.2 Comparison of meaning in English and Vietnases on pragmatics aspect.	32
2.1.3 Conclusion	35
2.2 Comparing Vietnamese Antonyms and English Antonyms	35
2.2.1 Similarity	35
2.2.2 The difference.....	36
Chapter 3: Finding and Disscusion.....	39
3.1 Some related problems when using Synonyms and solutions.....	39
3.2 Some related problems when using Antonyms and solutions.....	42
Part III: CONCLUSION.....	44
3.1 Conclusion.....	44
3.2 Recommendation	44
3.2.1 The pairs of special Synonyms.....	44
3.2.2 Learn vocabularies through Synonyms and Antonyms.....	46
3.2.3. Some tips for making Synonyms and Antonyms in English exams.....	50
3.2.4 Specialized dictionaries for finding Synonyms and Antonyms.	52
3.3 Exercises.....	53
References.....	57

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I would like to express my sincere and special gratitude to Ms. Nguyen Quynh Hoa, my supervisor, who gave me invaluable assistance and guidance during the preparation for this graduation paper. Without her valuable recommendations and advice, I could not finish this thesis successfully. My thanks also go to Mrs. Tran Thi Ngoc Lien, the dean of Foreign Language Department of Hai Phong Management and Technology University for her precious advice and encouragement I also would like to thank all the teachers of Foreign Language Department of Hai Phong Management and Technology University for their suggestions to my paper. Finally yet importantly, I am indebted to my family and my friends for all they have done for me. Without their help, this graduation paper would not have become reality.

HaiPhong, December 29, 2019

Quỳnh

Đoàn Thị Quỳnh

Part 1: Introduction

1. Rationale

With more than 8 million speakers in every part of the world, English now has taken its place as the most important international language. Therefore, the goal of learning and using this language is not just the knowledge of grammatical rules but also the knowledge of lexicology, especially, antonyms and synonyms which will pave a way for learners reach to the goal of successful communication. English learners can enhance their writing and speaking skills by using a variety of words in their own in term of using two amazing aspects in English language i.e: Antonyms and Synonyms respectively. For instance, often most of the words will have more than one Antonym (Synonym) totally depending on the context. Thus, it's important to chose the right one, for this , you have to make analysis of all the meanings in detail in order to learn the appropriate use of Antonyms (Synonyms) in English language.

2. Aims of the study

- This study gives the overview of antonym and synonym on English
- This study analyzes types of antonyms as well as synonyms in detail.
- This study gives the common problems of English learning when using antonym and synonym.
- A lot of exercises are given in order that learner practice and enrich their vocabulary.

3. Scope of the study

This study looks into the antonym as well as synonym and gives how to choose an antonym (synonym). Besides, provides the learners the general view on English antonym (synonym) such as: definition, characteristic features and classification with illustrated examples.

In the main part, this study gives some notes when using Antonyms and Synonyms in English in order to use exactly and appropriately.

4. Methods of the study

To carry out this search, qualitative methods are mainly implemented I search for relevant knowledge from different books, dictionaries and web pages.

Based on the knowledge, collected, and studied, I systemized into a logical theoretical background of Antonyms and Synonyms in English and give typical Antonym (Synonym) groups and explain their Antonyms (Synonyms) in different situation. With the difficulties I myself cannot solve, I discussed with my teachers and friends and asked for their advice and instructions.

5. Design of the study

In order to help readers understand easily, this study is divided into three parts:

Part I-INTRODUCTION: gives the background of the study. It comprises five ingredients:

1. Rationale
2. Aims of the study
3. Scope of the study
4. Methods of the study
5. Design of the study

Part II-DEVELOPMENT: includes three chapters:

Chapter I: Theoretical background: Provides the background to the study. It consists of Antonyms and Synonyms.

Chapter II: Some notes when using Synonym and Antonym in English

Chapter III: Implication: gives some related problems, suggested solutions and provides some exercises for practice.

Part III: CONCLUSION: Summaries the content of the whole study and suggests and ideas for further study.

Part II: DEVELOPMENT

Chapter I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Synonyms in English

1.1 Definition

Expressions with the same meanings are synonymous. Two points should be noted about this definition. First, it does not restrict the relation of lexemes to words: it allows the possibility that lexically simple expressions may have the same meaning as lexically complex expression (tease = to pill somebody's leg). Second, it make identity, not merely similarity, or meaning the criterion of synonym. While the first point is right, the second is obviously a narrow position. Many words or expression which we perceive to be synonyms would not fit this definition.

Synonyms are actually words of the same parts of speech which have similar meaning, but not identical meanings. They may share a similar denotational or connotational meaning. They can differ from each another in terms of denotation or connotation.

Father and dad differ in terms of connotation rather than denotation; on the other hand, misfortune and accident, catastrophe will be different in denotation.

I'll be happy to come vs *I'll be glad to come*

1.1.1 Condition

Lyons (1995) introduces the notion of absolute synonymy. According to him, two (or more) expression "are absolute synonyms if, and only if, they satisfy the following three conditions: I'll be happy to come vs. I'll be glad to come.

- (1). All their meanings are identical;
- (2). They are synonymous in all contexts;
- (3). They are semantically equivalent (i.e. their meaning or meanings are identical) on all dimensions of meanings and descriptive and non-descriptive.

It can be seen t hat such s ynonyms are extremely rare. We can talk about synonyms in terms of just one meaning. Further, it is important to distinguish between partial and near synonyms. Consider:

- *They live in a big/large house.*

Big and large are generally regarded as synonyms, but clearly, they are not synonymous in all of their meanings. Thus, they fail to meet condition (1) above and so are partial synonyms only. Near synonyms are mist and fog, stream and brook, and dive and plunge, ask and beg, like and love, gift and talent. They differ in terms of denotation. Condition (2) is basically about the collocational range of an expression or word: the set of contexts in which it can occur. The issue is can synonyms be used interchangeably and substituted in all contexts? Let us consider:

- *She is making a mistake, big mistake vs. she is making a large*

"She is making a large mistake" is grammatically well-formed, meaningful. But it is unacceptable collocationally.

Another example is *firm* and *hard*. We generally identify them as synonyms, but we may have serious doubt if someone say *a hard government* instead of *a firm government*. Thus, it will be a mistake to assume that synonyms can be interchangeable.

Consider this example: *Why did you marry her? I've asked that thousands of times*. If we replaced ask by question, that you will entail a change in structure, at least. We will have to remove "that" (I've questioned you thousands of times).

While substitution is a good test of synonymy, some reservation should be made about it. In fact, synonyms may be context-dependent (called contextual synonyms), i.e. they are similar in meaning only under certain specific distributional or collocational range. *Buy* and *get* offer an example.

- *Where did you buy the shirt?*
- *Where did you get the shirt?*

The third of the conditions listed above is identity on all dimensions of meaning. The most widely recognized dimension of meaning that is relevant to this condition is descriptive (or prepositional) meaning. By identity of descriptive meaning what we mean is that two expressions share the same descriptive meaning (i.e. are descriptively synonymous) if, and only if, propositions containing the one necessarily imply otherwise identical propositions containing the other, and vice versa.

For example: "bachelor" and "unmarried man". A bachelor is necessarily an unmarried man but not vice versa.' One can test for descriptive synonymy, in

this case, by examining whether anyone truly, or correctly, described as a bachelor is truly describable as an unmarried man, and vice versa. It may be well that for some speakers the expressions are synonymous and for others they are not, and that for a third group the situation is unclear. Those who hold that "unmarried " means, not just "not married" but "never having been married, and cannot be correctly applied to divorcees together with those, if any, who would readily apply both "bachelor" and "unmarried" to "divorcees" which will presumably treat "bachelor" and "unmarried man " as "descriptively synonymous".

"Big" and "large" are also descriptively synonymous in one of their meanings and over a certain range of contexts. Expressive (or socio-expressive, or connotative) is a kind of non-descriptive meaning. For example native English speakers are fully aware that a whole set of words including "huge, enormous, gigantic, colossal" are more expressive of the speaker's feelings towards what they are describing than "very big" or "very large". Other examples are:

<i>Statesman:</i>	<i>politician</i>
<i>Thrifty:</i>	<i>mean</i>
<i>Stingy:</i>	<i>economic</i>
<i>Stink:</i>	<i>stench</i>
<i>Fragrance:</i>	<i>smell</i>

There is a very important point we wish to acknowledge, i.e. most of the words expressions everyday have both a descriptive and expressive meaning.

If we consider "autumn" and "fall", there is no way of telling whether they are synonymous or not unless they are used a sentence like "He travels to the States every fall/autumn". Thus exists a view that synonymy is a relation between predicates or sentences rather than words.

1.1.2 Synonymic group.

There are about 8000 synonymic groups in English. A synonymic group is a group of all synonyms (for example, chief - principal main - important). In a synonymic group we can see "synonymic dominant", mostly general, neutral word, usually belonging to the basic stock of words.

- *Hope, expectation, anticipation.*
- *Leave, depart, quit, retire, clear out.*

1.2 Sources of synonyms

1.2.1. Borrowings

Many words were borrowed from Greek, Latin and French and they became synonyms to native words forming the synonymic group, in which the native words are usually neutral, French words are literary, Latin and Greek are bookish or scientific.

- *To ask - to question - to interrogate*
- *belly - stomach - abdomen*
- *to end - to finish - to complete*

1.2.2 The change of meaning (especially metaphor and metonymy)

The word "*hand*" for example, acquired the meaning "*worker*" and became synonym to this word, then the meaning "side, direction" (hand side), signature (hand signature)

1.2.3 Word-building

(1). Use/creation of phrasal verbs:

- *to rise - to get up*
- *to get off the ground - to take off the ground.*

(2). Conversion may also be a source of synonymy:

- *laughter - laugh*

(3). Quite often synonyms (mostly stylistic) are due to shortening:

- *bicycle – bike*
- *microphone – mike*
- *popular – pop*

(4). Synonyms are created by means of derivation and composition:

- *deceptive- deceitful*
- *trader - tradesman*
- *periphery – circumference*
- *hypothesis – supposition*
- *synthesis – composition*

1.3 Classification of Synonyms

1.1.3 Absolute synonyms

Absolute (total) synonyms. They are extremely rare in English, and probably in any other languages. However, it is possible to find few of them. For example, "semantics" vs. "semasiology" as technical terms. It is debatable that since one of them (semantics) is more popular than the other, this would constitute grounds for the difference (distributional difference, though less marked). Other noun/substantive; functional affix, flexion and inflexion, which may be said to be identical in meaning. It is useful to recognize that similar examples include: terms such as these are devoid of connotations or emotional coloring, and that their stylistic characterization does not vary. Thus, they are a special kind of synonyms: neither ideographic nor stylistic opposition are possible here.

1.3.2 Semantic synonyms

They are those which differ in terms of their denotation. For example: glance and look. We all know that "look" is the most neutral member of the group and simply means "turn one's eyes in a particular direction in order to see"; on the other hand, apart from these senses, "glance" suggests a "quick and stolen look."

1.3.3 Stylistic synonyms.

They are those which differ in terms of their connotation.

For example:

Policeman - bobby - cop

Before - ere

Father - dad

Fellow- chap - lad

We can see that their denotation is identical. No matter what their connotation is, "father" is "dad" in terms of notion.

1.3.4 Semantic-stylistic.

Semantic-stylistic synonyms make up the majority of all synonyms in English words differing both in denotational and connotational meaning, i.e. in shades of meaning connotation:

to reduce - to axe - to cut back

betrayal - sell - out

house – slum - pad - shack

to lay off - to dismiss - to fire - to sack

1.3.5 Phraseological synonyms.

Phraseological synonyms, i.e. words different in their collocations (combinability, i.e. ability to be combined with different words):

- Do - make (to do exercises but to make money)
- Language-tongue (native tongue, but to know languages)
- To lift to raise (to raise or lift a finger bit to raise prices, wages, question)

1.3.6 Territorial synonyms.

They are those employed in different regions like Britain, Canada, Australia or the United States. Consider "*sidewalk*" and "*pavement*". We know that the former is common in the States, whereas the latter is used on the other side of the Atlantic.

Below is a table of some words and phrases belonging to this group of synonyms.

British English	American English
autumn	fall
vest	undershirt
toilets	rest room
waistcoat	vest
car park	parking lot
trainers	sneakers
cinema	movie theatre
jumper	sweater

1.3.7 Euphemisms

Euphemisms, which literally means "speak well". In using euphemisms, a less unpleasant or offensive effect is achieved. Consider "*redundant*" and "*be out of a job/unemployed*". The word "*redundant*" is not as direct or to the point as "*unemployed*", thus, it may sound more "politically correct". Other well known examples are:

The underprivileged vs. the poor

Die vs. be no more/be gone

Lose one's life/breaths one 's last/join the silent majority

WC vs. the restroom/bathroom

1.4 Lexical variants and paronyms

There are many cases of similarity between words easily confused with synonymy but in fact essentially different from it. Lexical variants for one are just examples of free variation language, in so far as they are not conditioned by the contextual environment but are optional with speakers. Northward vs. northwards. Free variation in enunciation is another source of lexical variants. "missile" can be pronounced either as /misail/ or /misl/. The litmus test is whether there exists identity of meaning.

Nevertheless, one should pay attention to cases involving identity of stems, similarity of forms and meaning combined with a difference in distribution. They should be treated as synonyms. Consider "luxurious" against "luxuriant". They are synonymous when meaning "characterized by luxury". Otherwise, the latter is restricted to the expression of abundance (used of hair, leaves, flowers); and the former expresses human luxury (used of tastes, habits, foods, and mansions). Similarly, "economic" and "economical" are said to be synonyms.

Paronyms (comes from the Greek para "beside") are words that are kindred in origin, sound form and meaning but different semantically and in usage. For example, ingenious vs. ingenuous. The first of these means "clever" as in an ingenious craftsman, or device; and the other means "frank, artless" as in ingenuous smile.

The likeness may be accidental as in the verbs "affect" and "effect", which are often confused by learners of English. The former means "influence", while the latter means "produce. Similarity may also be due to a common source. Compare "alternate" and "alternative". "Alternate" means "succeeding" each other as in "alternate member"; whereas "alternative" means "providing a choice" as in "alternative sources of energy".

2. Antonyms in English

2.1 Definition

In the book named “Basic English lexicology” (2005), Hoang Tat Truong gave the definition of antonym: “Antonym are two (or rarely more) words belonging to the same part of speech, identical in style and nearly identical in distribution, associated and used together so that their denotative meanings render contradictory”.

For example:

Day – Night

Hot – Cold

Tie – Untie

*“My only **love** sprung from my only **hate** too **early** seen **unknown** and **known too late**” (1)*

(Hoang Tat Truong, 2005:84)

In the example, there are three pairs of antonyms: *love vs hate*, *early vs late* and *known vs unknown*. *Love vs hate* and *known vs unknown* indicate actions, so they are verbs, and a pair of antonym: *early vs late* are adjectives because they indicate the time. *Love* is opposite of *hate*, in term of the contractor affection, so *love* = not *hate*. Similarly, on the basic of contrary time, *late* is opposite of *early* and *unknown* is antonym of *known*, according to the different awareness.

Furthermore, two sentences that differ in polarity like these are mutually contradictory. If one is true, the other must be false. Two sentences have the same subject and have predicates, which are antonym also mutually contractor.

For example:

*The television is **on** now*

*The television is **off** now*

*Jack is a **good** boy*

*Jack is a **bad** boy*

*Bob **loves** football*

*Bob **hates** football*

(Hanh, 2006:90)

Lexemes like on and off, good and bad, love and hate are pairs of antonyms. They indicate the words of the same part of speech, which have contrasting or opposite meanings.

Besides, there is another simple definition of antonym claiming that: “*Antonyms are word pair that are opposite in meaning such as hot and cold, up and down, etc...word many have different antonyms, depending on the meaning. Both **long** and **tall** are antonyms of **short***”.

(www.en.wikipedia.org)

For example:

*She **took** a plate and **gave** me a clean one.*

(Michael, 2000:551)

In the example, there is a pair of antonym: *take* and *give*. In the sentence, take means *receive*... In terms of the contrary relation, *take* and *give* are antonyms.

Furthermore, take is the polysemantic word; it has meanings in which have many antonyms. For example, take three antonyms: give, put and bring.

The definition of Hoang Tat Truong, we can see that the word seem opposite meaning but they don't have associations together, so, they are not antonyms. For example, in the sentence: *She is beautiful but lazy; He is rich but he is unhappy...*, *beautiful-lazy*, *rich-unhappy* seem opposite words but they are not antonyms because they have no associations together. *Late* and *early* in the example (1) are antonym because of their association.

Oppositeness is perhaps not such a pervasive meaning in the vocabulary of English as synonym, but it has an important role in structuring the vocabulary of English. Many antonyms are explained by the means of the negative particle “not”. Almost every word can have one or more antonyms. Like synonyms, antonyms occupy an important place in the use of idioms.

For example:

Backwards and forwards

From first to last

In black and white

Not only words, but set expressions as well, can be grouped into antonymic pairs, for example: *by accident* >< *on purpose*.

Conclusion, **Antonym** is a word to another word which holds a general or specific opposite meaning, idea or concept and word may have different antonyms.

2.2. Classification of antonyms.

We can base on the meaning, the derivation and the part of speech to classify antonyms.

2.2.1. Based on the meaning

Antonyms cover a number of different types of oppositeness of meaning. Four types are common identified by John Lyons (1992:284) are Gradable antonyms, Contradictory or Complementary antonyms, relation or converse antonyms and directional antonyms.

2.2.1.1 Graded antonyms

Graded antonyms are understood as antonyms which operate on a continuum, such often occur in binomial phrases with and: (blow) hot and cold, (search) high and low.

(Tom Mc Arthur, “Antonym”, The Oxford.

Companion to the English language, Oxford University Press, 1992)

For example:

Short – Long

Rich – Poor

These pairs are called gradable antonyms because they do not represent an either or relation but rather a more/less relation. The more/less relation is evident in a number of ways. One way is that those terms allow comparative, so, they can take both comparative (happier) and superlative (happiest), for example:

My arm is longer than yours

I love a good book more than a good meal

(Hoa, 2002:31)

One the other hand, because the adjectives are not mutually exclusive, they can be qualified by adverbial of degree e.g quite happy, extremely happy, fairly happy, ect...

Furthermore, their meanings are relative to each other. One meaning is determined in reference to the meaning of the other. Since contraries are gradable, the semantic contrast in a contrary pair is relative. There are often

intermediate terms between the two opposites. Thus, we have not just rich and poor, but there are such gradations as rich, well-to-do, well-off, moderately, wealthy, comfortably off, hard up, poor.

Especially, the negation of one dose not mean the assertion of the other “he is not rich” dose not mean “he is poor”.

According to Hoang Tat Truong, ‘in dealing with antonymic opposition it may be helpful to treat antonyms in terms of “marked” and “unmarked” members. The unmarked member can be more widely used and very often can include the referents of the marked member but not vice versa. This proves that their meanings have some components in common’. So, this kind of antonyms can be analysed in terms of markedness.

For example:

How tall is he? (no implication, to ask his height and the asker don’t know that he is tall or short)

How short is he? (implication that he is short)

Similarly, beautiful is an antonym of ugly in terms of the contrary appearance. They can gradable antonyms because we might say he is quite beautiful, she is rather ugly, or she is more beautiful than her younger sister. Addition to, there are intermediate terms between beautiful and ugly: Beautiful: pretty: good-looking: plain: ugly. Moreover, we might sat that:

How beautiful is she? (no implication, to ask her appearance and the asker don’t know that she is beautiful or ugly.

How ugly is she? (implication that she is ugly) ...

Likely, these adjectives are gradable antonyms

Beautiful – ugly

Easy – difficult

Wide – narrow

Increase – decrease

Love – hate

Fast – slow

To sum up, gradable antonyms are antonyms which take both comparative and superlative, can be qualified by adverbial of degree, have intermediate terms between the two opposites and can be analyzed in terms of markedness.

2.2.1.2. Complementary antonyms

Tom Mc Arthur gave the definition of complementary antonyms:

“Complementary antonyms are antonyms which express an either or relationship, e.g. dead or alive, male or female.”

(Tom Mc Arthur, ‘Antonym’, The Oxford. Companion to the English language, Oxford University Press, 1992)

For example:

Shut – open

Win – lose

Permit – forbid

These pairs of antonyms are in relation of oppositeness: if we *shut* the window, then it is not *open*; if we *lose* a game, then we do not *win* it, If we *permit* someone behavior, then it is not *forbidden*.

Similarly, these pairs of antonyms are complementary antonyms (*Asleep* is an antonym of *awake* in terms of the contrary state, if we asleep =we don’t awake. *Dead* in an antonym of *alive* in terms of the contrary existence, if someone is dead = someone in not alive...)

Asleep – awake

Dead – alive

On – off

Shut – open

Permit – forbid

True – false

In short, **complementary antonyms** are the antonyms involving two items that presuppose that the assertion of one is the negation of the order.

2.1.1.3. Conversive antonyms

According to Tom Mc Arthur, *“The conversive antonym in which one describes a relationship between two objects and the other describes the same relationship when the two objects are reversed”*.

(Tom Mc Arthur, ‘Antonym’, The Oxford. Companion to the English language, Oxford University Press, 1992)

For example:

Buy – sell

Husband – wife

Above – below

For each other pair of antonyms, one expresses the converse meaning of the other. In the case of sentence with buy and sell, for example, the same transaction is expressed from different (converse) perspectives:

*Ted **bought** the car from Henry*

*Henry **sold** the car to Ted*

(Hanh, 2006:89)

In the example, *bought* is an antonym of *sold* in terms of the contract relation in market.

Similarly with nouns as *husband* and *wife*, a sentence may express the relationship in one of two converse ways.

For example:

*Vicky is Karl's **wife***

*Karl is Vicky's **husband**.*

(Hanh, 2006:89)

In the example, *wife* is an antonym of *husband* on the basis of the contrary relationship in family.

Similarly, the pairs of adjectives are relational antonyms (*Teacher* is an antonym of *student* in terms of the contrary relationship in school. *Left* is an antonym of *right* in terms of the contract direction...)

Teacher – student

Left – right

Speak – listen

Above – below

Before – after

Give – receive

In nutshell, **relational antonyms** are the antonyms which are opposite or contrasting in the order of participants and their roles.

2.2.1.4. Directional antonyms

Directional antonyms are understood as: directional antonyms are the antonyms which are opposite in the directions.

For example:

Arrive – depart

With the pair of antonyms ‘*arrive- depart*’, a sentence may mention to different and converse way to each:

*The 8-hour-train has **departed** the station and will have **arrived** at Ha Noi by 10.30.*

(Hung, 2006:98)

In the sentence, *arrive* is an antonym of *depart* in terms of the contractory direction.

Similarly, these adjectives are directional antonyms (*up* is antonym of *down*, *arrive* is an antonym of *depart*, *into* is an antonym of *out* in term of the contractory direction):

Up – down

Arrive – depart

Into – out

To sum up, **directional antonyms** are antonyms which indicate the contractory direction.

2.2.2 Based on the derivation.

Hung (2006:99) classified antonyms into two main types: **Root word antonyms** and **derivational antonyms**.

2.2.2.1. Root - word antonyms

In the first place, it is necessary to understand “root word antonyms are words completely different in sound- forms. They are of different roots”. For example:

- Old - Young

*She is **old** but her friend is **young**.*

- Give - Take

*Mary **gives** 25\$ for the boy and she **takes** his hat.*

(Hoang Tat Truong, 1993: 77)

In the example, the pairs of antonyms: *Old – young, give – take* are different in sound-forms and different roots.

To sum up, **root word antonyms** are antonyms which are different in sound- forms and different roods.

2.2.2.2. Derivational antonyms

According to Hoang Tat Truong, *derivational antonyms are words formed by derivation (words of the same roots).*

For example:

*The plane **appeared** in the sky, then suddenly **disappeared** behind a cloud.*

(New vocabulary in use – Stuart Redman & Ellen Show)

In the sentence *appear* and *disappear* are antonyms in which appear is added *dis* prefix in order to create its antonym. So, they called derivational antonyms.

Similarly, these adjectives are derivational antonyms:

Like – dislike

Appear – disappear

Useful – useless

Logical – illogical.

To sum up, **Derivational antonyms** are words formed by adding negative prefixes or suffixes.

2.2.3. Based on the part of speech

Based on the part of speech, antonyms were divided into four types: **antonymous nouns, antonymous verbs, antonymous adjectives, and antonymous verbs.**

2.2.3.1. Antonymous nouns

Antonymous nouns are antonyms which are typically found among nouns. For example:

“It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us...”

(Charles & Miller, 1989:247)

The bolded words are the antonyms; they are nouns in the part of speech. Thus, they are called antonymous nouns.

Similarly, these nouns are antonymous nouns (wisdom is an antonym of foolishness in terms of the contract characteristic, light is an antonym of darkness in terms of the contract brightness...)

Wisdom – foolishness

Light – darkness

Hope – despair

Everything – nothing

2.2.3.2. Antonymous verbs

Antonymous verbs are antonyms which are typical found among verbs. For example:

*I had to **pack** my suitcase very quickly, so when I **unpacked** at the hotel, most of my clothes looked terrible. (1)*

(New vocabulary in use – Stuart Redman & Ellen Show)

*She **took** my plate and **gave** me a clean one. (2)*

(Michael, 2000: 551)

Pack and *unpack*, *take* and *give* are the pairs of antonyms in terms of the contract relation in the two examples. Moreover, they denote the actions so they are verbs of the sentence, and we call them antonymous verbs.

Similarly, these pairs of antonyms are antonymous verbs (*bring* and *take*, *live* and *die*, *open* and *close*, *weep* and *laugh* are antonyms on the basis of relation...)

To bring – to take

To live – to die

To open – to close

To weep – to laugh

2.2.3.3. Antonymous adjectives

Antonymous adjectives are antonyms which are typically found among adjectives.

For example:

Old – young

Best – worst

“*It was the **best** of time; it was the **worst** of time...*” (1)

*She is **old** but her friend is **young**.* (2)

-

In the example (1), (2) *best* and *worst*, *old* and *young* are antonyms. Their functions in the sentences are adjectives. Therefore, we call them antonymous adjectives.

Similarly, these pairs of antonyms are antonymous adjective (*long* is an antonym of *short* in terms of the contract length, *wide* is an antonym of *narrow* in terms of the contract width ...)

Long – short

Wide – narrow

Rough – smooth

Deep – shallow

Fast – slow

2.2.3.4. Antonymous adverbs

Antonymous adverbs are antonyms which are typically found among adverbs. We consider the following examples:

*Does he work **fast** or **slow**?*

(Streamline English: lesson 38)

*But today English are playing very **well** and Scotland are playing **badly**?*

(Streamline English: lesson 38)

The bolded words in the two examples are antonyms (*fast* is an antonym of *slow* in terms of speed, *badly* is an antonym of *well* in terms of manner) and their function in the sentences is adverb, therefore, we call them antonymous adverb.

Likewise, these adverbs are antonymous adverbs (*Outside* and *inside* are adverbs and they are antonyms in terms of the contract direction, *carefully* and *carelessly* are adverbs and they are antonyms in terms of the contrary manner...)

For example:

Outside – inside

Carefully – carelessly

Ever – never

Merrily – sadly

Loudly – softly

To sum up, according to the part of speech, there are four types of antonyms: antonymous adjectives, antonymous verbs, antonymous nouns, and antonymous adverbs.

2.3 Full and empty words

Words of English, like those of many languages can be put into two classes. One class consists of full words such as "*at, boy, green, learn*"; the other class of words traditionally regarded as empty such as "the, in, on, because, off, if". We should note that this distinction is not always clear-cut. It correlates with the distinction between open-class and closed-class words which is drawn in many modern schools of grammatical theory.

By "*empty*", what is meant is that these words do not have a lexical meaning, i.e. they do not express a notion or concept. This is probably a narrow view since the so-called empty words may not be entirely devoid of meaning in this sense. Probably in an intuitively clear sense of "*meaningful*", they are generally less meaningful than full words are: they are more easily predictable in the contexts in which they are used. Hence their omission in headlines, telegrams.

Full words in English are the notional parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs; empty words consist of articles, conjunctions, certain pronouns, prepositions. Other terms found in literature are "empty words", "function words", "grammatical words" and "structural words".

J. Lyons makes the point that it does not make sense to discuss the meanings of such words as "the, off, in, on" in terms of concepts. Nor does it seem reasonable to say that their meaning, however we describe or explicate it, is independent of their grammatical function. The distinction is also consistent with the fact that the major parts of speech may be defined in terms of their own meanings, whereas, such possibility is denied to the empty word classes. These

words are often defined in relation to their potential for combining with one or the other of the major parts of speech.

3. Vietnamese synonyms and Antonyms

3.1 Vietnamese synonyms

In Vietnamese language, Vietnamese linguists seem not to pay greater focus on synonyms. For them, synonym words which make their difference in terms of semantic or stylistic site or both semantic and stylistic sites are words similar in meaning, different in sound. (Synonyms are words that are similar in meaning, different in sound and differentiated with some semantic or stylish nuances, etc., or both simultaneously. - *Cơ sở ngôn ngữ học và tiếng Việt*, NXB Giáo dục, H., 1997.). However, the most detailed definition is given by Nguyen Van Tu in "*Từ và vốn từ tiếng Việt hiện đại*". He is the first people developed developing the subject of Vietnamese lexicology. According to him, synonyms words are different words refer referring to the same thing, characteristic or action. Therefore, Vietnamese synonyms include two major types: absolute synonyms and partial synonyms. According to the course book of Vietnamese language for students at sixth grade-1998, absolute synonyms have identical shades of meaning, while partial synonyms have different shades of meaning.

3.1.1 Definition and characteristic features.

3.1.2. Classification

3.1.2.1. Absolute Synonym

Absolute synonyms are divided into four subtypes according to the source of the origin of the word. We can replace this one for another in context or during conversation.

A. Archaic and modern words:

Archaic words make a great contribution to the development of Vietnamese language beside extended modern. They are used in the past and rooted in native words or words borrowed from Mon-Khmer, Mon-Khmer, Tày-Thái, Mường, Hán or even European language which is no longer used in Vietnamese language. Therefore, they cooperate with new ones to create couples of synonyms as following:

Archaic words	Modern words	Meanings
Văn pháp	Ngữ pháp	Grammar
Tình nhân	Người yêu	Lover
Phi cơ	Máy bay	Plance

B. Regional dialect and standard words.

As a nature, regional dialects develop in certain areas of the country along with the standard language, which on the one hand, enriches the language itself, on the other hand, contributes to form the synonyms:

Standard words	Southern words	Meanings
Bố	Ba	Father
Mẹ	Má	Mother
Bát	Chén	Bowl

C. Native words and borrowings

In its long-lasting history, Vietnamese country used to be colonized by China, France, and the USA. Naturally, words from Chinese, French and English have entered Vietnamese as a consequence of these invasions. These borrowings exist as the synonyms of Vietnamese words.

Borrowings	Native words	Meanings
Công-tai-nơ	Thùng đựng hàng	Container
Rốc-két	Đạn phản lực	Rocket
Xi-căng-đan	Vụ bê bối	Scandal
Mít-ting	Buổi họp	Meeting
Phụ nữ	Đàn bà	Woman
Tivi	Vô tuyến	Television
Xe hỏa	Xe lửa	Train

D. Terminology and standard words

Terminology includes specific words used only in a certain field of science. They are the scientific names of the things. For example, the peel of mandarin is called "vỏ quýt" in common Vietnamese, but in traditional medicine it is "trần bì".

3.1.1.1.2. Partial synonyms.

Partial synonyms are subdivided due to different nuances of meaning. We have to carefully consider when choosing words to express right objective reality and feeling nuances.

A. Stylistic synonyms. This kind of stylistic synonyms have similarity in denotation but difference in connotation. For example: "huyết sinh, tử trần, ngoẻo" all describe the state of stopping living. However, "huyết sinh" are expressed to give up one's life for a noble purpose, with great regret of lives. "Tử trần" is used to describe the death of normal people with neutral emotion. "Ngoẻo" are used to describe a death of a certain person with indifferent feeling.

B. Scale synonyms.

Words of this type refer to things that vary in scale and size. For instance, they compare "lâu đài" (castle), "nhà" (house) and "lều" (hut) and then draw out that: a castle is bigger than a house and a house is bigger than a hut. So they are scale synonyms.

D. Level synonyms.

These are synonymous words differing in the level of expressive ability. For example, "ngại"; "sợ" and "kinh" all describe the feeling of being afraid. But "ngại" (dread) is lighter, "sợ" is more expressive, "kinh" is the most expressive of the feeling. They are similar to semantic synonyms in English.

E. Praseological synonyms.

Words in this type of synonym convey similar actions but go with different subjects: For example, "bửa, che, chặt, chém, vót" which refer to make an opening or a wound in sth, esp with a sharp tool. However, we only say "bửa củi, chặt củi, che củi", we cannot say "cắt củi, chém củi, vót củi".

F. Manner synonyms.

Words of this type mostly include verbs that refer to the actions done by different manners. For example, "gạch", "xóa" and "tẩy" all express the action of

vanishing things, but "gạch" is to cross the thing, "xóa" is to use a duster to make the thing disappear, and "tây" is to use an eraser to get rid of the thing.

3.1.3. Sources of synonym

3.1.3.1. Borrowings

The number of Vietnamese synonyms rooted in Hán-Việt is large .For example: nữ (hán-việt) has the same meaning with đàn bà , con gái (woman in English).

3.2 Vietnamese antonyms

3.2.1. Definition

Antonyms is a term that refers to words that have opposite meanings in general. Strictly speaking, there can only be opposite meanings of words, not the opposite words. The opposite of expressions must always be understood as words with opposite meanings or opposite words in terms of semantics. These conflicting meanings are always considered in a context and in a specific aspect.

3.2.2. Classification

3.2.2.1. Notable classification methods in Vietnamese linguistics

In Vietnamese linguistics, Do Huu Chau (1962), divided into antonyms:

1. Words denoting each other's qualities and natural phenomena are mutually exclusive (war - peace).
2. Words that indicate opposite spatial directions (north - south).
3. Words that reflect the quality or quantity of change, in the middle have a neutral point (cold - hot).
4. Words denoting ontologies represent conflicting properties (grasshoppers - elephants).
5. Words indicating contradictory phenomena and classes (bourgeois-property).

Nguyen Van Tu (1968) mentioned:

1. The antonym indicates the opposite of quality and capacity: high - low.
2. The antonym is denoting the opposite of meaning, based on the added factor, that is, two complementary opposing components, of which the negation of the word is the meaning of the other. for example: not honest = false.
3. The antonym indicates the opposite direction of the action, the nature, for example: revolution - anti-revolution.

Next, Nguyễn Thiện Giáp refers to two types of antonym: vocabulary antonym and contextual antonym. The concept of Nguyen Thien Giap has been reassembled in many works about antonyms or related to antonyms. By 1988, Duong Ky Duc classified: *từ trái nghĩa nghịch chất* (black - white), *từ trái nghĩa nghịch tuyến* (living - dead), *từ trái nghĩa nghịch thể* (to set - to rise), *từ trái nghĩa nghịch đảo* (won - losing), *từ trái nghĩa nghịch dụng* (heaven - earth).

3.2.2.2 Possible classifications of Vietnamese antonyms

This section categorizes the Vietnamese antonym system based on different criteria: stability in the relation of meaning, type word, French word structure, operability, degree of transformation, conceptual province, the meaning correlation between the meaning of the constituent element and the meaning of the constituent element, origin, logic - semantics. A logical - semantic classification is a common classification. Based on this classification, we have: from the oppositional scale (hot - cold), complementary antonyms (life-to death), TTN relations (buy-sell), antonyms of the direction (in-out).

3.2.3 Structure of Vietnamese antonyms

3.2.3.1. Simple antonyms

Single antonyms are antonyms made up of a phoneme. To be more specific, these are pairs of antonyms whose both poles are composed of a morpheme, for example: white - black, literary - martial, in - out, won - lost, toss - diaphragm, etc...

3.2.3.2 Complex antonyms

Complex antonyms are antonyms that have more than one phonemic formation. In other words, complex antonyms are antonyms formed from a single antonym.

3.2.3.3. Isolation compound antonyms.

The isotropic antonyms can be the opposite of pure isolation: love is angry, upright - mischievous, lazy - hard-working, fast - slow, etc. In Vietnamese, there is a rather special type of isolated antonyms, which are words in its composition that have at least one linguistic element that has the potential to be opposite to another linguistic element, for example. tall, short, fast, slow, diligent, lazy, honest and deceitful, the Vietnamese compound antonyms usually only go into the semantic model: the meaning of that compound word is formed.

from the union, the common meanings and eliminate the differences of the constituent elements (love - hatred).

3.2.3.4. Auxiliary compound antonyms

The structure of the secondary coupling is quite complicated. In terms of semantic structure, the sub-main compound antonyms always belong to the distinguished semantic model (distinct, distinct). In terms of grammatical structure, in general, the demand for creating grammar of two vocabulary units in a sub-pair of opposite meanings is polymorphism (verb + adjective: trade deficit - export surplus, xenophobia - foreign student, narrow - expansion, verb + noun: grace - vengeance, takeoff - landing, presence - absence, defeat - win: adjective + noun: good number - ugly, ugly - good temperament, prepositions + verbs: mistreatment - respectful, unpleasant - pleasant,...

3.2.3.5. Alliterative Expressions Antonyms

The opposite of Vietnamese antonym has some interesting features. As for the level, the opposite meaning does not seem to have taken the third, the fourth, only the double type. In terms of origin, antonyms only occur in pure Vietnamese words. In terms of meaning, the factors usually stand behind, meaning factors usually precede. In terms of type words, antonyms usually occur only in the province of words. Because of the nature of linguism, the semantics of lexical entities always have a definition of "general assessment, generally like the established lexical vocabulary units, and there is no definition of" distinct "or" distinct ". meaning "like sub-major coupling, therefore, it is almost impossible to have antonyms with sub-vocabulary units, but to be able to pair antonyms with vocabulary units that have very independent structure. For example: good - ragged, messy-tidy, tight - loose, cramped - spacious, ... In a pair of antonyms, if both poles have a convex structure, two The word opposite at these opposite poles usually does not have the same pattern.

Chapter 2: Comparing Synonyms and Antonyms in Vietnamese and English.

2.1 Comparing Vietnamese Synonyms and English Synonyms

2.1.1 Collate semantics of synonyms in English and Vietnamese

2.1.1.1 Introduction

In the framework of the thesis, we will use the case study method by choosing to comparatively analyze semantic sequence of typical synonyms that from the center of each synonym sequence have similar meanings in English and Vietnamese to draw similarities. and the differences of synonyms between two languages are compared.

2.1.1.2 Compare synonym verbs:

CARRY , BEAR, CONVEY, TRANSPORT, TRANSMIT vs

a) MANG, ĐEM, XÁCH, BÊ, BỤNG

b) ĐEO, VÁC, GÁNH, KHIÊNG, KHUÂN, QUẦY, ĐỘI

c) CHỞ, TẢI, CHUYÊN CHỞ, VẬN CHUYỂN, CHUYỂN VẬN, VẬN TẢI

Analysis and comparison results show the English synonym sequence have the same idea is "make the object move by having it on you and move it with it to another place" with a lot less vocabulary units than the corresponding Vietnamese synonym sequences. Vietnamese synonyms have a much more specific semantic distinction, much more specific than English words, many of which refer to manual transport actions. The above sequence of synonyms differs according to the following argument (1.2) and cycle (3,4,5).

1. Subject of act of transport: one person (**vác, xách**) or more than one person (**kiêng**);

2. Type of objects to be transported: people, animals or objects and objects

small / normal or heavy weight, bulky, for example, light objects (**xách, bung**), heavy or bulky objects (**bê, vác**);

3. Means of transport: by hand (row a); by shoulder or back and may be accompanied by some instrument (such as yoke, bamboo frame ...) (row b); by means of transport (row c);

4. Mode or mode of transportation (expressed in the meaning of words in each sequence), for example: carried with one hand to let go down (**xách**);” **mang**” (usually a heavy object) with both hands held forward, without lifting (**bê**); carried with both hands, reaching around chest or abdomen (**bung**) ...;

The new English dictionary lists different English synonyms. By the following three arguments:

1. The nature of the object or object to be transported;

2. Mode of action;

3. Means of transport: manual (row a); by shoulder or back and may be accompanied by some instrument (yoke, bamboo frame ...) (row b); by means of transport (row c);

4. Mode or mode of transport (expressed in the meaning of words in each sequence), for example: carried with one hand to let go down (**xách**); carry (usually a heavy object) with both hands held forward, without lifting (**bê**); carried with both hands, reaching around chest or abdomen (**bung**) ...;

5. Transport distance: near (**bung, bê**) or far (**vận chuyển-transport**)

The new English dictionary lists different English synonyms according to the following three arguments:

1. The nature of the object or object transported¹²;

2. Mode of action;

3. The end - no end of the action

In our opinion, the English synonyms are different in the fourth argument as well as the synonyms in Vietnamese "Transport distance near or far" (expressed in the meaning of the words **transport, transmit**)

Not to mention that in Vietnamese, there are many other verbs that only carry and carry the meaning of discrimination according to the above 5 arguments, such as **cấp** (subject of action: person; object of action: person, animal, immovable; means: hand; method: pinched to armpit or side); **cõng** (object of action: people; object of action: people, animals; means: arms and back; methods: carrying objects on back); **đèo** (action object: people; action object: people, animals; vehicles: bicycles; method: leave bicycle saddle).

2.1.1.3 Semantic comparison of synonymous adjectives:

WEAK, FEEBLE, FRAIL, FRAGILE, INFIRM, DECREPIT vs

YẾU, YẾU ĐUỐI, YẾU ỚT

The comparison results show that Vietnamese adjectives also differ in the following meanings as English adjectives:

- 1) The body system (physical body) reveals weakness (only the muscular system or the whole body);
- 2) The form of showing weakness (unable to self-endeavor - unable to prevent other people's efforts towards the subject);
- 3) Assess weakness from the speaker.

Vietnamese adjectives are not distinguished in the following meanings as in English: Causes of weakness.

It is worth noting that Le Duc Trong's English explanation of synonyms has given the following adjectives in Vietnamese to compare with the sequence of synonyms in English because the word **weak** is central.: **yếu, yếu ớt, yếu đuối, ốm yếu, suy yếu, yếu đau, đau yếu, già yếu, hom hem, òi ọp, lụ khụ, suy nhược, gầy yếu, mảnh khảnh, mảnh dẻ** (about organisms or body parts). This shows that the meaning of adjectives in English often has a broader meaning

than the corresponding adjectives in Vietnamese. Therefore, the same English adjectives used in different contexts are often translated by many different Vietnamese adjectives.

2. 1.1.4 Reconcile the semantics of a sequence of synonym nouns

COUPLE, PAIR, BRACE, YOKE vs HAI, VÀI, ĐÔI, CẶP

The couple has the broadest and least definitive meaning - it can represent just two things and can be a little more, for example: a couple of girls / of women, of boys (2 cô gái / phụ nữ, thằng bé); a couple of dogs / of cats, of cows (hai con chó / nhiều con mèo, nhiều con bò cái); after a couple of glasses (several glasses); in a couple of minutes / of days (hai phút / ngày).

Pair implies that two things are considered to form a complete set, one cannot be used without the other, etc., for example, a **pair** of eyes / of hands, of feet (đôi mắt/ tay, chân); a **pair** of shoes (đôi giày) to walk in **pairs** (đi từng/ thành đôi)

Brace and **yoke** are meant to specialize in couple invoices because they represent exactly two things; on the other hand they mean less specialized **pair**, because only emphasize, the fact that two things appear in the speaker's perception as related things, for example: a **brace** of pheasants / of ducks, of greyhounds (cặp/đôi gà lôi/ vịt, chó săn); a **brace** of pistols (2 khẩu súng lục); a **yoke** of oxen (đôi bò).

In Vietnamese, two are the index words after the first, before the third in the Vietnamese counting system. Synonymous with two, there are also double, pair words. However, there are still quite clear differences in meaning and usage between these words.

When talking about a small, unspecified number of people, between two and three, we can say **hai, ba / đôi, ba / vài ba người**. **Vài** are commonly used words to indicate an indefinite number, which is about two, or a little more than two. Therefore, we are used to saying **một vài, vài ba, vài bốn**. But can't say **vài năm** or **vài sáu ...!** If you want to say the number is unknown, from four to five, or from five to six, it must be said **bốn năm, dăm sáu**.

When two people or two objects combine, always forming a pair, if separated, the pair becomes odd and single, for example: Two chopsticks form a pair of chopsticks (đôi đũa); two shoes made up of shoes ...(đôi giày)

If two people or things are so attached to one another that one person cannot be separated from the other or the other, it is called a **couple**: a **couple** (**cặp** vợ chồng)

Thus, the semantic disparity of the above synonymous noun sequences in English and Vietnamese is completely the same: **Couple** = **hai, vại**; **Pair** = **đôi** (eyes, shoes); **brace, yoke** = **cặp** (couple, shoes).

2.1.2 Comparison of meaning in English and Vietnamese on pragmatics aspect.

2.1.2.1 Introduction.

According to Ju. D. Apresjan, pragmatic information is intertwined with semantic information, in many cases it is difficult to separate from semantic information. Either of these cases is typical pragmatic information often compressed directly into lexical meaning. Therefore, in this thesis, we have reconciled the sequence of synonymous synonyms in English and Vietnamese with general pragmatic information, pragmatic information from the perspective of the number. in particular, mixed in the meaning of words.

Due to the complex nature of the unstable pragmatism, it only appears in the context of certain use of words, in this thesis, we also follow Ju.D. Apresjan does not mention this type of pragmatism. Therefore, we will simultaneously reconcile the synonyms in both English and Vietnamese languages according to the speaker's evaluation of the reality or the content of the notice or the listener trying The chemical is in the meaning of words. Because reference objects are synonyms, their similarities are more noticeable than differences. Therefore, it is more important to compare English and Vietnamese synonyms according to the pragmatic parameter first to show the different pragmatic information of the synonyms. We propose possible use of the term pragmatic term to denote pragmatic information that is distinct from synonyms (SS. Distinctive definition is called pedicular). Pragmatics is a pragmatism distinction based on the

opposites of the same type of pragmatic information, for example: assessment information on a scale of numbers has three opposites, from which there are three predicate: the rating is considered normal / neutral - the rating is considered to be low - the rating is considered to be numerous, etc.2. Compare pragmatics of synonyms in English and Vietnamese

2.1.2.2 Compare synonym verb ranges:

CARRY , BEAR, CONVEY, TRANSPORT, TRANSMIT và

a) MANG, ĐEM, XÁCH, BÊ, BỤNG

b) ĐEO, VÁC, GÁNH, KHIÊNG, KHUÂN, QUẦY, ĐỘI

c) CHỞ, TẢI, CHUYỀN CHỞ, VẬN CHUYỂN, CHUYỂN

VẬN, VẬN TẢI

The results of the comparative analysis show that the sequence of verbs is synonymous English is spoken in different areas according to the following 5 pragmatics:

1. The grammatical expression of books (pen) or neutral;
2. The pragmatism that evaluates the weight or importance of the transporting object is large, so it requires the efforts of the subject;
3. The pragmatism that evaluates the object to be transported is of a particular or peculiar nature;
4. The pragmatism evaluates the distance to transport as far;
5. The pragmatism evaluates the action of being complete, reaching the goal.

The verbs in the three upper sequences of Vietnamese do not differ in the style of expression - style and expressive scope as in English. They have the following evaluation predicates:

- 1) The predicate evaluates the object of action as heavy / bulky or light;

- 2) The predicate that evaluates the mass of the action object is more / less;
- 3) The pragmatism evaluates the distance of transport activity as far or near.

The number of pragmatics is higher in English than in Vietnamese. The English synonym verbs are different from the Vietnamese synonym verbs in the following two pragmatics:

- 1) A pragmatist using a book-style or neutral style;
- 2) The pragmatism evaluates the action of being accomplished or achieving results or goals.

2.1.2.3 Pragmatical collation of synonymous adjectives

BEAUTIFUL, PRETTY, HANDSOME, ATTRACTIVE, LOVELY, CUTE, GOOD-LOOKING, GORGEOUS, STUNNING, STRIKING vs ĐẸP, ĐẸP ĐẼ, XINH, ĐẼ COI, DIỄM LỆ, LỘNG LÃY, MĨ LỆ

The above sequence of synonyms in English and Vietnamese is similar in that there is a difference in the following pragmatics:

- 1) The pragmatism restricts the type of subject that has "beauty" or which aspect is mentioned to the beauty of the subject;
- 2) The pragmatics evaluates the speaker's sense of the exalted quality of the "beautiful" subject, being positive or negative, or evaluating how high the beauty is.

2.1.2.4 Compare synonym noun sequences:

ENEMY, FOE và ĐỊCH, GIẶC, THÙ

The noun **foe** and **enemy** English only differ in pragmatics assess the level of hostility: the **enemy** has a pragmatism neutralization, and **foe** has a pragmatism about the level of hostility to the extreme and not to each other. Vietnamese nouns also have the opposite of pragmatic level of hostility like

English nouns, which can be classified in the degree of increase: **địch - giặc - thù**. In addition, Vietnamese nouns also have a more pronounced contempt of pseudonym than English, so often combined with words that also use pragmatic information such as assessment attitude of the speaker: guys (thù, địch); clique (giặc, địch) ...

2.1.3 Conclusion

The comparison of synonyms in English and Vietnamese on pragmatic aspect also results in comparison with the comparison of synonyms in two languages on semantic aspect. Specifically, in each sequence of English synonyms, the number of synonyms is usually much less than the units in the corresponding synonyms series of Vietnamese. This makes English synonyms often have more general pragmatic information than corresponding synonyms in Vietnamese. In many cases, the English synonyms are not different in concept, so the choice of which words to use is due to the difference in the pragmatic information (typically, the synonyms with die are the central words).). Synonyms that carry pragmatic information reviews in Vietnamese tend to distinguish each other in more detail, more specifically than English. And the English synonyms tend to generalize pragmatical information about the assessment in general.

The aforementioned evidence proves that Vietnamese people tend to divide and categorize objective reality and express it in language in more detail and detail than native English speakers. This is entirely consistent with the linguistic thinking characteristics of each linguistic community: the English-speaking community tends to generalize, while the linguistic thinking of Vietnamese tends to be more specific. materialize, detail.

2.2 Comparing Vietnamese Antonyms and English Antonyms

2.2.1 Similarity

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings in a related relationship. They are different phonetically and reflect contrasting concepts of logic.

The antonyms can represent contrasting concepts of time, location, space, size, capacity, emotional state, natural phenomena, social phenomena, ie all the concepts reflect the quality of the object.

2.2.2 The difference

2.2.2.1 Vietnamese antonyms

The Vietnamese antonym phenomenon is mainly the opposite of different original words. However, new antonyms can also be configured on the basis of inherent antonyms.

For example :

Sadness, happiness

Heavy - gentle

Bad - kind

Hard work - no work

Antonyms have a special criteria, that is, if one side can be combined with certain words, the other side can be combined with those words, and create a pair of antonyms.

For example :

Tall people - short people

Wide river - narrow river

Eat salty - eat light

Clever - awkward to speak

The antonym has the law of opposite associations, that is, if one refers to the first, one will immediately think of the second.

For example:

When the adjective "to" is mentioned, people often think of "bé" or "nhỏ".

Referring to "ugly", people immediately think of "beautiful"...

Vietnamese literature, especially folklore, opposes words with great frequency. Because it is handed down in the form of oral transmission, folk songs and proverbs often use words and words every day to express. This creates a close, easy to understand and read.

For example:

***Chết** vinh còn hơn **sống** nhục*

***Thương** cho roi cho vọt - **Ghét** cho ngọt cho bài*

*Giày **thừa**, guốc **thiếu** mới xinh*

*Thói đời **giàu** trọng, **khó** khinh thấy buồn*

2.2.2.2 English antonyms

Unlike antonyms in Vietnamese, antonyms in English that have both opposing words and words that can add money will become new words with the opposite meaning of the original word.

For example:

Last and First

Happy and sad

Dark and Light

Empty and Full

Best and worst

Big and Small

In addition, antonyms have no central word. There are only two possibilities, either this or that.

For example:

Man and Woman

Pass and Fail

Dead and Alive

Imput and Output

Off and On

Silence and nosie

Some antonyms in English are formed by adding a prefix to the root word.

- Add prefix "un"

For example :

+ Likely and alternate

+ Able and unable

+ Fortunate and unfortunate

+ Forgiving and unforgiving

- Add prefix "non"

For example :

+ Entity and nonentity

+ Combatant and noncombatant

- Add a "in" prefix

For example :

+ Tolerant and intolerant

+ Decent and indecent

+ Discreet and indiscreet

+ Expensive and inexpensive

Chapter 3: Finding and Discussion

3.1 Some related problems when using Synonyms and solutions

By collecting errors through student writing and conversations, combined with a short test, especially through information gathered from interviews with about 20 students. In the first 3 amateur classes at Hanoi University of Culture, we have found some common mistakes of amateur students when using synonyms in English.

The majority of students interviewed thought that the synonyms in English could be interchangeable in any context. They cannot distinguish between words within a group of synonyms. This is because students do not know all the nuances of meaning of synonyms, so they cannot use the right words in different contexts or contexts.

A few common errors related to synonyms will be considered in the following.

3.1.1 Syntax error

This type of error is related to grammar rules used with words, usually caused by using the wrong English grammar structure.

For example: In the survey, most students choose the word *purport* in the following sentence:

*The author **purports** that tobacco is harmful.*

In fact, the verb “*purport*” means self, that it is (to claim or pretend to be smt) and the structure that goes with this verb is *purport to be / have smt*. The following examples show the usage of the verb “*purport*”:

*The document **purports** to be an official statement.*

*The book does not **purport** to be a complete history of the period.*

Therefore, we cannot use the verb “to purport” in the above sentence, but the word to use here is “to claim”, meaning assertive, assert or declare something and the usual sentence pattern is *claim smt / that*. Let's take a look at the examples below:

She claims (that) she is related to the author.

After the battle, both sides delayed victory.

3.1.2 Error matching

This is a common mistake students make. For amateur students, it's not easy to tell the difference between big / large pairs; firm / hard; ask / question; buy / get ... when they appear in combinations like: big mistake / large mistake; firm government / hard government; ask somebody / question somebody or buy the shirt / get the shirt...

For example: Students often think that the following 2 sentences are the same:

"She is making a big mistake" and "She is making a big mistake".

Grammatically, the phrase 'a large mistake' is completely acceptable (an adjective + a noun) but cannot be used in combination. We just said "a big mistake", not "a big mistake".

3.1.3 Semantic error

This error is due to a misunderstanding of the meaning of the word used in the sentence.

Example: When someone wants to say someone was injured in a car accident, students often write the following sentence:

*I was badly **damaged** in the accident.*

The word "damage" is often used with collocates with words for things, meaning loss and damage (usually economic). Let's consider the following examples:

The vandals did a lot of damage to the car.

Millions of dollars 'worth of storm damage ...

The shop tried to sell me a damaged sofa but I noticed it just in time.

Therefore, we do not use 'damage' in the sentence above but the correct word here must be 'injured'. This word is often accompanied by words related to people (collocates with words to do with people), which means being injured in an accident (in a car or in sports), physically hurt (in the body). Take a look at the following example:

In the coach 10 people died and 18 were seriously injured.

Three injured people were taken to hospital after the accident.

3.2 Some related problems when using Antonyms and solutions.

When Vietnamese learners use antonym, they usually make the common mistakes. The first mistake is that the learners often learn by heart antonyms. Therefore, when they use antonyms, sometimes they do not take the context into consideration. One polysemantic word can have more than one antonym, for *take* can be opposite in meaning with *put*, *bring* and *give*. And in each situation and context the learners choose suitable words.

Take >< give

She give to the boy \$12 and take his hat.

Take >< put

Mary takes a ball then put it in right place

Take >< bring

He will take you to the party and bring you home on time

(Michael, 2000: 551)

According to Hung (2006: 99), the most common mistake made by Vietnamese learner when using antonyms is ,contrast it to its missing antonym". It means that the learners use antonym in a wrong way, e.g. *short* is opposite in meaning with *long* or *tall* although they have the same meaning in some situation: “*That was one more reason she didn't look forward to Cathy's visit short or long*”. Not:

“*That was one more reason she didn't look forward to Cathy's visit short or tall*”.

According to Hoang Tat Truong Semantic polarity presupposes the presence of some common semantic components in the denotation meaning. Thus, while *ashamed* means “feeling unhappy or troubled because one has done something wrong or foolish”, its antonym **proud** also deals with feeling but the feeling of happiness and assurance which also has its ground in moral values.

Some suggested solutions

With these mistakes, the learners should take consideration to as well situation of the sentences to use antonyms in a right way.

For description adjective antonym is by no means one of the most important and rich in content relations. Semantic markeness of opposition members is to be defined through the marked one. Their definition in Princeton

WN are reversed: *true* – ‘consistent with fact or reality; not *false* ‘not in accordance with the fact or reality or actuality’. In case of definition based on the antonym relation special attention should be paid to cycles, when antonyms are defined through each other.

The semantic structure of adjectives is considered being dependent on and specified by the noun they modify. So, in some case, we pay attention to nouns to find the meaning of adjectives and their antonyms.

Moreover, antonym is in euphemism. Hoang Tat Truong said that: “Many antonyms are explained by means of the negative particle: *clean –not dirty, shallow – not deep....*syntactic negation by means of the particle not is weaker than the lexical antonym”

For example:

I am sorry to inform you that we are not at all satisfied with your sister (1).

We are very much dissatisfied with her. (2) (Ch. Dickens)

Although negation is intensified by at all, the level of intensification in the sentence (1) is not equal in the sentence (2). Thus, the sentence (2) with a word with a negative prefix is added to compensate for the insufficiency of syntactic negation in the sentence (1). So, when using negation, the opposite of meaning is weaker than using the lexical antonymy. “Euphemisms are expressions used to avoid unpleasant or offensive feelings. In order to not hurt or shock the listeners or readers with the unexpected information, euphemisms will be a good choice. It can be explained that explained that euphemisms help us transfer these information in a direct or gentle way”.

Therefore, not only synonym but also antonym (the negation) is used in euphemism.

According to Hoang Tat Truong, “though more often we are inclined to take into consideration only the opposite ends of the scale and by saying that something is not bad we even, using litotes, say it is good”.

For example: The poem is not good doesn’t mean the poem is bad.

Furthermore, the difference in negation it is optional with antonym proper, by saying that the poem is not good, the speaker does not always mean that it is positively bad.

Similarly, between beautiful and ugly have intermediary elements: beautiful: pretty: good – looking: plain: ugly. If don’t want to say the fact that

someone is ugly, you can use the negation to listener imagine the intermediary elements between beautiful and ugly:

So, when we said: someone is not beautiful, instead of thinking that someone is ugly, the listener imagine some one is plain; someone is good – looking ; or, someone is pretty.

Basing on the intermediary elements between rich and poor: Poor: hard up: comfortably off: wealthy: moderately: well-to-do: rich. When using euphemism to avoid saying someone is poor, using the negation in this case, someone is not rich.

Therefore, the listener images someone who is hard up, comfortably off, wealthy, moderately or well-to-do.

To sum up, besides using synonym in euphemism, we can use the negation, thus, your style becomes richer and richer.

3.3 Student can apply the theory to do the exercises

Student will able to lean parts of speech and identify them using context clues and master vocabulary list words and their meanings through a series of exercises using antonyms. Student will read words in context to connect words and meanings use vocabulary words in context and put them into action. Students will also have opportunity to review and extend their meaning and check their mastery.

Part III: CONCLUSION

3.1 Conclusion

It is common knowledge that lexicology plays an important role in teaching and learning English. The higher the Students' proficiency is, there more competent in lexicology is required, especially, antonyms and synonyms. That is the reason why I study on synonyms and antonyms with the presentation of three main parts: the first part is the definitions and classifications of synonyms and antonyms, the second part is the main part of this thesis is the development which consists of ..., and the last part of this thesis is conclusion.

However, this is my first step in language research, and because of short time as well as limited knowledge, mistakes and errors are unavoidable. I hope that this graduation paper will help the learners to have more knowledge of synonyms and antonyms. "Synonyms and Antonyms" is an interesting theme, therefore, a further study should study on many other case studies of other words such as Antonyms of polysemantic.

3.2 Recommendation

3.2.1 The pairs of special Synonyms.

2.2.1.1 Start vs Begin

- Start: Used for engines and vehicles. Do not use "begin" in these cases.

E.g: *It was a cold morning and I could not start my car.*

- Begin: often appear in more formal and abstract situations.

E.g: *Before the universe began, time and place did not exist.*

3. 2.1.2 End and Finish

- End: with the meaning of deciding to stop / end something.

E.g: *They ended their relationship a year ago.*

- Finish: can mean "complete".

E.g: *I haven't finished my homework yet.*

3.2.1.3 Grow vs Raise

- Grow: often appears with plants and plants.

E.g: *In the south, the farmers grow crops.*

- Raise: usually goes with animals and children.

E.g: *In the north, the farmers mostly raise cattle.*

3.2.1.4 Clever, Smart vs Intelligent

- **Intelligent:** is the word with the smartest meaning. Intelligence is synonymous with brainy, which refers to people with intelligence, quick thinking and logical thinking or to refer to outstanding things and events as the result of the thought process

For example:

Her answer showed her to be an intelligent young woman

What an intelligent question!

- **Smart:** is an adjective with many meanings, which is also close to intelligent. However, intelligent only the ability to analyze and solve problems scientifically and effectively, while smart only quickly grasp the situation or happening happening.

For example:

The intelligent math students excelled in calculus.

He found an intelligent solution to this problem.

Smart lawyers can effectively manipulate juries.

That was a smart career move.

With the smart sense, smart is also used with weapons capable of locating targets or controlled by computers such as smart weapons, smart bombs. In addition, smart is also used to indicate the appearance, usually showing how a person dresses. In this case, smart means bright, neat, or fashionable.

For example:

You look very smart in that suit

They are having lunch in a smart restaurant

- **Clever:** again only clever or wise.

For example:

As a child, she was a clever girl.

She is clever to get what she wants.

However, clever is often used with the meaning of skill and skill. In this case, clever is synonymous with skillful.

He is clever with his hands.

The factory needs clever workers.

3.2.1.5 Hear and Listen

- Hear: to be aware of sound with ears
- "Hear" is not used in continuous tenses.

For example:

She *heard* footsteps behind her.

- "Hear" + to-V

For example:

She has been *heard to make* threats to her former lover.

"Hear" is not associated with prepositions

- Listen: to pay attention to somebody/ something that you can hear.
- "Listen" is used in continuous tenses.

For example:

Listen! What is that noise? Can you hear it?

Sorry, I was not really listening.

- "Listen" is used to notice people doing something.

Listen, there's something I will have to tell you

- "Listen" often go with prepositions

Why won't you listen to reason?

However, in rare cases one can also identify the meanings of these two verbs.

For example:

I hear what you're saying (=I have listened to your opinion), but you're wrong.

3.2.2 Learn vocabularies through Synonyms and Antonyms.

Learning synonyms (antonyms) is the most effective way to expand vocabulary to make communication easier and easier by using the right words, making sentences become fluent, clear and fluent. In English communication, many people today can only use very basic vocabulary to serve the task of making sentences are not specific, sometimes unclear, confusing to listeners. Mastering the use of synonyms helps you avoid the above situation, the communication becomes smooth, the style is suitable for the context, and further helps you improve your English vocabulary.

Method of learning synonyms (antonyms): To make it easier to memorize, we should divide the synonyms (antonyms) into 4 groups: adjectives, verbs, adverbs and nouns.

3.2.2.1 Nouns

Synonyms	Antonyms
Chance - Opportunity	Day – Night
Applicant - Candidate	Light – Darkness
Shipment - Delivery	Everything – Nothing

3.2.2.2 Adjectives

Synonyms	Antonyms
Damaged - Broken - Out of order	Wide - Narrow
Defective - Error - Faulty - Malfunctional	Win - Lose
Fragile - Vulnerable - Breakable	Young - Old

3.2.2.3 Verbs

Synonyms	Antonyms
Announce - Inform - Notify	Laugh - Cry
Book - Reserve	Open - Shut

Buy - Purchase

Through - Catch

3.2.2.4 Adverbs

Synonyms

Antonyms

Early - Soon

Early - Later

Front - Ahead

Front - Back

Top - Above

Above - Below

Like Vietnamese or any other language in the world, English vocabulary has almost no limits. Factors of synonyms, antonyms also contribute to embellish that "unlimited". So, how to improve vocabulary, especially synonyms effectively?

Not only do you have to learn new words, but you also need to dig them deep. Specifically, besides the meaning and pronunciation of words, you should learn other related factors such as stress, word families, synonyms and antonyms with it.

For example:

Attract

- Pronunciation: /ə.'trækt/
- Meaning of words: (action) Attractive, attractive, attractive
- Related surnames:
 - Attractive (adj)*
 - Attraction (n)*
 - Attractively (adv)*
- Synonyms: Allure, appeal to, interest
- Antonym: Disinterest

Do not forget to learn **Antonyms**. Studying antonyms by itself can be easier than synonyms because in many cases, you only need to prefix “dis-, un-, in -, ...” to create a word. the complete antonym has a reasonable opposite.

3.2.3 Some tips for making Synonyms and Antonyms in English exams.

If the students know the meaning of the underlined word and the 4 answers, they can easily find synonyms (antonyms). If they do not know the meaning of the word, apply some tips to find the answer according to the instructions below.

Look closely at the important words in the sentence to guess the meaning of the *inclined* word

Example 1: Find synonyms

*His greatest **triumph** was undoubtedly his achievements in training Laos ladies to win the All Ireland senior title three years ago.*

- A. failure B. victory C. contribution D. devotion

If “*triumph*” is not known as a “victory”, then based on nearby vocabulary, students can still guess the meaning by giving important information.

Specifically:

- The adjective *greatest* (very large; much bigger than average in size or quantity) immediately preceding triumph shows the positivity of the noun triumph.

- *His greatest triumph was ...* proving the information behind is the direct explanation for the triumph keyword.

“*Achievement*” and “*win*”: does the victory suggest anything? Yes, they all refer to the “victory” of the noun “*triumph*” being asked, and the answer chosen as B. victory has the same meaning. Other options:

A. *failure*: lack of success in doing or achieving something

C. *contribution*: a sum of money that is given to a person or an organization in order to help pay for something

D. *devotion*: great love, care and support for somebody/something.

Example 2: Find synonyms (Exam 2015)

*She simply **took it for granted** that the check was good and did not ask him any questions about it.*

A. look it over

B. accepted it without investigation

C. objected to it

D. permitted it

The idiom *take it for granted* (meaning taking things for granted) may be difficult for many students who have little knowledge of Idioms. However, students can guess the meaning by the suggestions in the lesson: *the check was good* and *did not ask him any questions* about it will directly suggest the Idiom we are looking for meaning.

"She simply *took it for granted* that the check is correct and doesn't ask him any questions about it" will lead us to the answer B. accepted it without investigation (meaning agree without seeking understand/investigate what)

Example 3: Find synonyms

Suddenly, it began to rain heavily, so all the summer hikers got *drenched* all over.

- A. very tired
- B. refreshed
- C. completely wet
- D. cleansed

Suddenly, it began to rain heavily. Suddenly it rained heavily so pedestrians who were "*drenched*" were not difficult to deduce that they were C. completely wet.

Use your own knowledge to guess the meaning of words

Example: Find antonyms

We have to **husband** our resources to make sure we make it through these *hard times*.

- A. spend
- B. manage
- C. use up
- D. marry

Husband is often known as husband (noun), few people know it can be verb with the meaning of "economical, conservative". However, here we can completely guess the meaning through our knowledge. During *hard times*, we have to husband the resources, it's not hard to guess that we have to "save" resources, and choose C. *use up*: do the method sentence against husband

*I find it hard to work at home because there are too many **distractions**.*

- A. attention
- B. unawareness
- C. unconcern
- D. carelessness.

I find it hard to work from home because there are so many *distractions*. From our own experience, it is easy to understand that at home there are many things that can distract from work: TV, phone, noise... to confirm the distraction speculation (distraction) and select A.attention

Some tips to choose the answer

If they cannot deduce the meaning of the underlined word to select the answer, students can apply the following tips to guess the correct / closest answer.

With the article looking for **antonyms**, if you observe that one word out of the 4 options given is different from the other 3 alternatives, it is most likely the word to choose. Very likely, because this is only a speculation.

*Televisions are a **standard** feature in most hotel rooms.*

- A. abnormal
- B. common
- C. customary
- D. typical

Choose A. abnormal (different from what is usual or expected, especially in a way that is worrying, harmful or not wanted) is the opposite of all 3 options:

- B. common (ordinary; not unusual or special)
- C. customary (routine)
- D. typical (having the usual qualities or features of a particular type of person, thing or group) and the opposite always *standard*.

- If the given word is a difficult word, the answer usually falls into easy-to-understand words but not on other new words.

In summary, with the form of synonyms / antonyms, we can find the correct answer in 2 ways:

- Method 1: Use the clues in the article to guess the meaning of the search, then compare the guess you guess with the given options and then select the exact or opposite meaning according to the topic.

- Method 2: Directly replace the given options on the underlined section, see which one is the most logical to choose.

A small note that many students do not read the topic carefully or do not pay attention, so they have chosen the synonyms for the underlined word while the topic requires finding antonyms. This is an unfortunate case of losing points so you should be careful to avoid.

3.2.4 Specialized dictionaries for finding Synonyms and Antonyms.

3.2.4.1 Thesarus.com

This site is one of my favorites and always produces the most synonyms. Another website domain is Dictionary.com. In parallel with the synonyms shown, you can explore further with hints and filters. You can also explore related words on Thesaurus.

3.2.4.2 Synonym.com

This web application helps you get a list of synonyms, antonyms, and their definitions. The design is very simple, but pop-up ads appear often making the number of hits lower than Thesaurus.com. The synonyms are arranged around, meant to convey.

3.2.4.3 Synonyms.net

This site not only does a search for synonyms but presents a lot of relevant information around the results. The synonyms themselves are hyperlinked. You can listen to the pronunciation, translate words into another language, a picture, Q&A frame if you have any questions about a word, quotes or search options. You can also search for lyrics with specific words.

3.2.4.4 Synonym Fider

When it comes to word applications, this is one of the most compact software. Synonym Finder gives you hyperlinked words along with their definitions and usage. You can also use the search box to get antonyms.

3.2.4.5 The Free Dictionary

A free dictionary is a broader word tool than simply finding synonyms. It includes many other word reference tools. The "Start with" and "Starts with and Ends with" options help you get a complete list of suggested words if you can't remember correctly. The dictionary will return meaning, words, synonyms, antonyms, and related words and supports a variety of other references on usage.

3.3 Student can apply the theory to do the exercises

Student will be able to learn parts of speech and identify them using context clues and master vocabulary list words and their meanings through a series of exercises using antonyms. Student will read words in context to connect words and meanings use vocabulary words in context and put them into action. Students will also have opportunity to review and extend their meaning and check their mastery.

Exercise 1: Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word or phrase that is CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined part in each of the following questions.

1. He was asked to account for his presence at the scene of crime.

- A. Complain
- B. Exchange
- C. Explain
- D. Arrange

2. The teacher gave some suggestions on what could come out for the examination.

- A. Effects
- B. Symptoms
- C. Hints
- D. Demonstrations

3. I'll take the new job whose salary is fantastic.

- A. Reasonable
- B. Acceptable
- C. Pretty high
- D. Wonderful

4. I could see the finish line and thought I was home and dry.
A. Hopeless B. Hopeful C. Successful D. Unsuccessful
5. Carpets from countries such as Persia and Afghanistan often fetch high prices in the United States.
A. Artifacts B. Pottery C. Rugs D. Textiles
6. The shop assistant was totally bewildered by the customer's behavior.
A. disgusted B. puzzled C. angry D. upset
7. He didn't bat an eyelid when he realized he failed the exam again.
A. wasn't happy B. didn't want to see C. didn't show surprise
D. didn't care
8. Ralph Nader was the most prominent leader of the U. S consumer protection movement.
A. casual B. significant C. promiscuous D. aggressive
9. Tourists today flock to see the two falls that actually constitute Niagara falls.
A. come without knowing what they will see
B. come in large numbers
C. come out of boredom
D. come by plane
10. She is always diplomatic when she deals with angry students.
A. strict
B. outspoken
C. firm
D. tactful

Exercise 2: Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the word or phrase that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined part in each of the following questions.

1. Because Jack defaulted on his loan, the bank took him to court.
A. failed to pay
B. paid in full
C. had a bad personality
D. was paid much money

2. His career in the illicit drug trade ended with the police raid this morning.

- A. elicited
- B. irregular
- C. secret
- D. legal

3. The government is not prepared to tolerate this situation any longer.

- A. look down on
- B. put up with
- C. take away from
- D. give on to

4. I clearly remember talking to him in a chance meeting last summer.

- A. unplanned
- B. deliberate
- C. accidental
- D. unintentional

5. In remote communities, it's important to replenish stocks before the winter sets in.

- A. remake
- B. empty
- C. refill
- D. repeat

6. There has been no discernible improvement in the noise levels since lorries were banned.

- A. clear
- B. obvious
- C. thin
- D. insignificant

3.2. Key to exercise

Exercise 1

1D 2C

3D 4C

5C 6B
7C 8B
9B 10D

Exercise 2

1B 2D
3A 4B
5B 6D

References

English books

1. Charles, W & Miller, G. (1989). **Contexts of antonymous adjectives**. Jossey - Bass Publishers.
2. Tom Mc Arthur, “**Antonym**”, The Oxford. Companion to the English language, Oxford University Press, 1992.
3. **Collins Co build English Dictionary for Advanced Learners 4th edition** published in 2003.
4. [http:// www. BBC World Service/ learning English.com](http://www.BBCWorldService/learningEnglish.com).
5. [http:// www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org).

Vietnamese books

1. Hanh, T.T. (2006). **Word Meaning**. Da Nang Publisher
2. Hoa, N. T. (2002). **An Introduction to Semantic**. The National University Publisher.
3. **English-English-Vietnamese Dictionary**- nxb Van Hoa Thong Tin.
4. **Từ điển đồng nghĩa phản nghĩa** - nxb Dong Nai.
5. Hoang Tat Truong. **Basic English lexicology**, 2005.
6. **Understanding English Semantics** - Nguyễn Hòa (nxb ĐH Quốc gia Hà Nội)
7. **Từ điển tiếng Việt**, Hoang Phe
8. **Từ điển trái nghĩa**, Duong Ky Duc