

BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC QUẢN LÝ VÀ CÔNG NGHỆ HẢI PHÒNG



KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP

NGÀNH : NGÔN NGỮ ANH

Sinh viên : Nguyễn Nhật Minh

HẢI PHÒNG – 2025

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**A STUDY OF SYNONYMS USED IN ENGLISH AND
VIETNAMESE POLITICAL NEWS**

KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP ĐẠI HỌC HỆ CHÍNH QUY
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Tên đề tài: A Study Of Synonyms Used In English And Vietnamese
Political News

NHIỆM VỤ ĐỀ TÀI

1. Nội dung và các yêu cầu cần giải quyết trong nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp

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2. Các tài liệu, số liệu cần thiết

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3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp

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Học hàm, học vị : Tiến sĩ
Cơ quan công tác : Trường Đại học Quản lý và Công nghệ Hải Phòng
Nội dung hướng dẫn: A Study Of Synonyms Used In English And Vietnamese Political News

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Đề tài tốt nghiệp: A Study Of Synonyms Used In English And
Vietnamese Political News

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Hải Phòng, ngày ... tháng ... năm

Giảng viên hướng dẫn

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news to uncover linguistic strategies, cultural influences, and their role in shaping political narratives and public perception. By categorizing synonyms into absolute, semantic, stylistic, territorial, euphemistic, and phraseological groups, the research highlights how media outlets and political figures utilize lexical choices to frame political discourse, influence public opinion, and adjust ideological positioning. Through comparative analysis, the study identifies key similarities and differences in synonym usage across both languages, particularly in formal versus casual expressions, regional linguistic variations, and rhetorical strategies. Findings suggest that synonym selection is not merely a linguistic preference but a deliberate tool in political communication, impacting audience perception, media framing, and translation accuracy. The implications of this research extend to journalism, media literacy, and cross-cultural political communication, contributing to a deeper understanding of how language shapes political engagement and governance narratives.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1. RATIONALE

The study of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news is a timely and significant endeavor that addresses the intricate relationship between language and political communication. Political news, as a powerful medium for shaping public opinion and conveying ideologies, relies heavily on the strategic use of language. Synonyms, with their nuanced meanings and subtle connotations, play a pivotal role in framing narratives, influencing perceptions, and guiding interpretations. By examining the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news, this thesis seeks to uncover the linguistic strategies employed to achieve these effects, shedding light on the deliberate choices made by writers and speakers in political contexts.

Furthermore, this research bridges a critical gap in comparative linguistic studies. While English political discourse has been extensively analyzed, the exploration of Vietnamese political language, particularly in the context of synonyms, remains limited. By juxtaposing these two languages, the study not only highlights their unique linguistic and cultural characteristics but also reveals the shared strategies and universal principles underlying political communication. This comparative approach enriches our understanding of how language operates as a tool of influence across different cultural and linguistic landscapes.

The practical implications of this research are far-reaching. Journalists, translators, and educators can benefit from the insights provided by this study, enhancing their ability to craft effective and impactful messages. Additionally, the findings can empower readers to critically analyze political news, fostering media literacy and enabling them to identify potential biases or manipulative language. In an era of globalized media, where political narratives transcend borders, this research contributes to the broader goal of promoting cross-cultural understanding and informed engagement with political discourse.

Ultimately, this thesis aligns with the growing need to examine the subtle linguistic tools that shape public perception and influence societal dynamics. By

delving into the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news, it offers a valuable contribution to the fields of linguistics, media studies, and political communication, while addressing the pressing challenges of our interconnected world.

2. Aims and Objectives of the study

The aim of this thesis is to examine the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news to uncover linguistic strategies, cultural influences, and their role in shaping political narratives and public perception. In order to obtain this particular aim, we highlighted the objectives of the study as follows:

- To identify and analyze the most frequently used synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news
- To compare the use of synonyms across English and Vietnamese political discourse, highlighting similarities and differences.
- To provide insights into how synonyms can be strategically employed for effective political communication across languages.

3. Scope of the study

This study focuses on analyzing the use of synonyms in political news across two languages: English and Vietnamese. The scope encompasses the following dimensions:

- **Language Coverage:** The research will examine synonyms used in English and Vietnamese, highlighting their linguistic features, contextual applications, and connotations. It will compare how synonyms are employed in these two distinct languages, reflecting their unique linguistic systems and cultural contexts.
- **Source Material:** The primary sources for this study will include political news articles, editorials, and opinion pieces from reputable English and Vietnamese media outlets. These sources will be selected to ensure representation of diverse political perspectives and media styles.
- **Temporal Focus:** The analysis will be limited to political news published within a specific time frame, which could range from the past five to ten years.

This temporal focus ensures the study captures contemporary political language while acknowledging historical trends.

- **Key Themes and Contexts:** The study will focus on political themes such as governance, elections, policy announcements, and international relations. These themes provide a relevant and rich context for analyzing the strategic use of synonyms in shaping political narratives.
- **Analytical Framework:** The study will analyze the frequency, contextual usage, and semantic nuances of synonyms, as well as their role in framing political messages. The scope will remain focused on linguistic and cultural dimensions, without delving into broader political ideologies or agendas.

By defining these parameters, the study ensures a clear and manageable framework for addressing its objectives while contributing valuable insights to the fields of linguistics, media studies, and political communication.

4. Research questions

To make the aim more easily achievable as well as to limit the research, the following questions are created and will be answered afterward:

1. What are the most commonly used synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news, and what do they reveal about linguistic preferences?
2. In what ways do the use of synonyms in political news impact public perception and understanding of political events?
3. How do similarities and differences in synonym usage reflect broader cultural and communicative strategies in English and Vietnamese political contexts?

5. Research methodology

This study employs a mixed-method approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative analysis to examine the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news. The quantitative approach is utilized to statistically measure the frequency and distribution of political synonyms in news articles, while the qualitative approach is adopted to explain why certain synonyms are more common or less frequently used based on rhetorical, ideological, and cultural factors.

6. Design of the study

To help readers understand easily, this study is divided into six chapters:

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: Literature Review

Chapter III: Using synonyms in English and Vietnamese Political news

Chapter IV: Conclusion

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Synonyms in English

2.1.1. Definition

Synonyms are essential linguistic tools that enhance the richness and flexibility of language. They allow speakers and writers to convey their thoughts and ideas with precision, choosing words that best suit their intended meaning and tone. While synonyms may share similar denotational meanings, subtle differences in connotation, nuance, or usage can make them more suitable for specific contexts or expressions.

For instance, the words *sad* and *unhappy* both convey a negative emotional state, but *sad* may imply a deeper sense of sorrow or melancholy. In contrast *unhappy* might suggest a more general dissatisfaction or lack of contentment. Understanding these nuances enables effective communication and helps convey subtle shades of meaning.

It is important to recognize that not all pairs of synonyms are perfectly interchangeable. Context, audience, and intended effect all play roles in determining which synonym is most appropriate for a given situation. Additionally, language evolves, and the meanings and connotations of words can shift, leading to changes in synonym usage.

In conclusion, while synonyms provide speakers and writers with valuable tools for expressing themselves with precision and nuance, it's essential to use them thoughtfully and consider their subtle differences to ensure effective communication.

2.1.2. Common Synonyms

Here are some of the most common synonyms in the form of nouns, verbs, and adjectives as these three are the most used.

Words	Synonyms
slow	Sluggish, leisurely, unhurried, gradual, tardy.
angry	Furious, mad, irate, enraged
funny	Humorous, hilarious, comical, entertaining
serious	Grave, solemn, intense, sincere
fast	Quick, swift, rapid, speedy

weak	Fragile, feeble, frail, powerless
small	Little, tiny, miniature, petite
house	Home, residence, abode, dwelling

2.1.3. Purpose of Synonym

Word option:

Synonyms offer subtle distinctions in meaning, allowing writers to choose the most precise word for their communication needs. This precision can significantly impact the effectiveness of writing, especially in persuasive contexts where the choice of words can influence the reader's perception and response.

Understanding the nuances between synonyms like *good*, *fine*, and *excellent* can indeed elevate the quality of writing. Each word carries its connotations and implications, which can subtly shape the reader's interpretation of the message. By being aware of these nuances and selecting the most appropriate synonym, writers can craft more compelling and persuasive arguments.

Moreover, English's rich vocabulary, influenced by loan words from other languages, further enhances the variety of synonyms available. This diversity offers writers a wealth of options to express ideas with precision and finesse.

In summary, synonyms play a crucial role in writing by providing a spectrum of words to choose from, each with its unique shades of meaning. Mastery of synonyms allows writers to convey their message with clarity, impact, and resonance, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of their communication.

Diversity:

Elegant variation, or the practice of alternating synonyms to avoid repetition, is a valuable technique in writing, particularly when focusing on a specific topic or theme. By varying word choice, writers can maintain reader interest and create a more engaging reading experience.

In the example of writing about dogs, using synonyms like *hound*, *canine*, *puppy*, or even informal terms like *doggo* or *pupper* adds variety and freshness to the text. This not only prevents monotony but also allows writers to explore different facets of the topic and appeal to a wider audience.

Furthermore, elegant variation helps writers strike a balance between clarity and

creativity. While repetition can lead to boredom, excessive variation might confuse readers or dilute the main message. Therefore, it's essential to use synonyms judiciously, ensuring they enhance rather than detract from the overall coherence of the writing.

Overall, alternating synonyms is a powerful tool for writers to maintain reader engagement, enrich their prose, and effectively convey their message. Whether writing a research paper, an article, or any other form of content, employing elegant variation can elevate the quality and impact of the writing.

2.2. Sources of synonyms

2.2.1. Borrowings

English has borrowed extensively from various languages over its history, including Greek, Latin, and French. This borrowing has enriched the English vocabulary and led to the formation of synonymic groups, where words from different linguistic origins have similar meanings.

Words borrowed from Greek, Latin, or French often carry connotations of formality, literacy, academia, or scientific discourse. This distinction in connotation reflects the historical contexts in which these words were borrowed and their subsequent usage in English.

Examples:

- To ask - to beg - to request
- start - commence - initiate
- end - finish – conclude

2.2.2. Word-building

Use of phrasal verbs:

Example: To surrender – to yield

Conversation may also be a source of synonym

Example: Laughter – laugh

Shortening synonym

Example: Popular–pop, bicycle–bike

Synonyms are created through derivation and composition

Examples: Deceptive - deceitful, Trader – tradesman

2.3. Classifications

2.3.1. Absolute synonyms

An absolute synonym is a term used to describe words that have identical meanings in all contexts, with no discernible difference in connotation, usage, or denotation. In other words, absolute synonyms are completely interchangeable and can be substituted for one another without altering the meaning of a sentence or expression. However, it's important to note that true absolute synonyms are rare in language due to the nuanced nature of word usage and the inherent variability of human communication. Often, apparent synonyms may have subtle differences in meaning, usage, or register, even if they appear interchangeable in certain contexts.

Examples: *Car* – *Automobile*

The two words above are synonyms but not synonymous in their shade of meaning so their meaning are not identical.

2.3.2. Semantic synonyms

They are words that differ in terms of their denotation.

Example: quick and speedy

Quick simply emphasizes the short duration of an action or the minimal amount of time required to complete it; on the other hand, *Speedy* means a higher rate of speed or velocity. It often implies that something is accomplished or executed with considerable rapidity.

While they are often used interchangeably, *speedy* can sometimes imply a greater sense of urgency or efficiency compared to *quick*. However, in many contexts, they are synonymous and can be used interchangeably to convey the idea of swiftness or rapidness.

2.3.3. Stylistic synonyms

Stylistic synonyms are words or phrases that have similar meanings but differ in style, tone, register, or connotation. Unlike absolute synonyms, which are rare, stylistic synonyms provide speakers and writers with options to tailor their language to suit different contexts, audiences, or purposes.

Examples: Officer – cop, Father – dad, dude – mate.

It is evident that they have the same meaning. Father is more formal because, in essence, fathers are dads regardless of their meaning.

2.3.4. Territorial synonyms

Territorial synonyms, also known as regional synonyms, are words or phrases that have similar meanings but are used interchangeably in specific regions or territories.

These variations in usage can occur due to historical, cultural, or geographical factors, leading to the development of distinct vocabulary within different linguistic communities. Consider *lorry* and *truck*. So *territorial synonyms* refer to words or phrases that are used interchangeably in specific regions or territories.

British English	American English
autumn	fall
biscuits	cookies
cinema	movie theatre
jumper	sweater
pavement	sidewalk
lorry	truck
trainers	sneakers
soccer	football
chips	fries
apartment	flat
rubbish	garbage
candy floss	cotton candy
bloke	dude
holiday	vacation
lift	elevator
wardrobe	closet

film	movie
main road	high way
pyjama	pajama
diaper	nappy
faucet	tap

2.3.5. Euphemisms

Euphemisms are often used to soften or mask the harshness of certain words or phrases. They allow speakers to communicate sensitive or potentially offensive topics more politely or indirectly.

The unfortunate vs. the poor

Die vs. be no more/be gone

2.3.6. Phraseological synonyms

Phraseological synonyms refer to expressions or phrases that convey similar meanings or concepts but may differ slightly in wording or structure. These synonyms often have similar connotations and can be used interchangeably in various contexts. Here are some examples:

+ *Break the ice* and *Get the ball rolling* both mean to initiate conversation or action in a situation where there is tension or hesitation.

+ *A Piece of cake* and *A walk in the park* both convey something very easy to do

2.3.7. Variants

The term "synonymy" refers to the situation in which two or more words have meanings that are identical or similar. However, synonymy is sometimes mistaken for polysemy, homonymy, and contronymy, three other categories of word interactions. Let's examine those terms in more detail to make things clear. The situation in language when a single word has several related meanings is called polysemy. These interpretations might have developed from a shared historical ancestor or they might be linked by a semantic thread. The several meanings of a word in polysemy are frequently connected in some way, but they can differ in terms of usage, connotation, or specificity.

Polysemy refers to the phenomenon in language where a single word has multiple related meanings. These meanings may be connected by a common semantic thread or may have evolved from a shared historical origin. In polysemy, the different senses of the word are often related to each other in some way, but they can vary in specificity, usage, or connotation. For example, the word *sound* can sometimes mean noise but other times it can mean healthy. The only way to tell the correct meaning is by context; if someone says they heard a sound, you know the meaning is noise because you can't hear healthy.

Homonymy refers to the linguistic phenomenon where two or more words have the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings. Homonyms can create ambiguity in communication because the same word form can represent distinct concepts or ideas, depending on the context in which it is used.

Homophones are words with different meanings and different spellings, but they are pronounced the same, such as *their*, *there*, and *they're*. Homographs are words with different meanings but the same spelling, such as *lead* (noun) and *lead* (verb). Homographs may or may not be pronounced the same—it doesn't matter.

Contronymy is the rarest type of word relationship, where a word has one spelling and pronunciation but two opposite meanings. Contronyms can lead to ambiguity or confusion in communication, as the same word can convey contradictory ideas. For example, the verb *buckle* can mean *to connect something*: The man buckled his belt. But it can also mean *to break a connection*: The chair buckled under the man.

Paronyms are words that are similar in sound or spelling but have different meanings. Unlike homonyms, which can have identical spelling or pronunciation, paronyms typically differ slightly in their spelling or pronunciation. For example, *Affect* and *Effect*, are paronyms because they sound similar but have different meanings. *Affect* is usually used as a verb meaning to influence or produce a change, while *Effect* is usually used as a noun meaning the result or outcome of something.

→ Understanding these distinctions can help clarify language usage and enhance communication by ensuring that words are used appropriately and accurately.

2.4.1. Vietnamese synonym

Linguists do not appear to be paying more attention to synonyms in the Vietnamese language. They consider synonyms to be words that are identical in meaning but differ in sound, and that distinguish them according to either the semantic or stylistic site, or both. Nguyen Van Tu defines synonyms as distinct phrases that relate to the same object, quality, or behavior. Consequently, there are two main categories of synonyms in Vietnamese: absolute synonyms and partial synonyms. Sixth-grade students' Vietnamese language study book from 1998 states that partial synonyms have distinct meaning shades from absolute synonyms, which have the same meaning shades.

2.4.1.1. Definitions

"Từ đồng nghĩa" or "từ đồng nghĩa tiếng Việt" in Vietnamese refers to words or phrases that have similar meanings or convey identical or nearly identical concepts. Synonyms are essential elements of language that enrich communication by offering alternatives for expressing ideas, emotions, actions, or qualities. They provide flexibility and variety in language use, allowing speakers and writers to choose the most suitable words to convey their intended message or to avoid repetition.

In Vietnamese, synonyms can vary in formality, register, connotation, and usage context. While some synonyms may be interchangeable in most contexts, others may have subtle differences in meaning or usage that make them more appropriate for specific situations. Understanding synonyms in Vietnamese enables speakers and writers to communicate more effectively, convey nuances, and enhance the richness and depth of their language.

2.4.2. Classifications

2.4.2.1. Absolute synonym

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

2.4.2.1.1. Archaic and Modern Words

It's fascinating to observe how archaic words contribute to the development and richness of the Vietnamese language, alongside modern vocabulary. These archaic words, rooted in native languages such as Mon-

Khmer, Tày Thái, Mường, Hán, and even European languages, offer a historical and cultural depth to the language. When paired with modern words, they create pairs of synonyms that enrich the language. Here are some examples:

Archaic words	Modern words	Meaning
Điều kiện	Tình thế	Condition
Vật liệu	Nguyên liệu	Material
Đặc biệt	Riêng biệt	Special

These pairs demonstrate how archaic words, originating from various linguistic sources, complement modern vocabulary, creating layers of meaning and expression within the Vietnamese language.

2.4.2.1.2. 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 and, on the other hand, contributes to forming the synonyms:

Standard words	Southern words	Meanings
Bố	Ba	Father
Mẹ	Má	Mother
Bát	Chén	Bowl
Lợn	Heo	Pig
Ngô	Bắp	Corn

2.4.2.1.3. Native words and borrowings

The historical colonization and interactions with China, France, and the USA have left significant linguistic influences on the Vietnamese language. As a result, borrowings from Chinese, French, and English have entered Vietnamese vocabulary, enriching the language and contributing to the formation of synonyms. Here are some examples:

Borrowings	Native words	Meaning
Công-tai-nơ	Thùng đựng hàng	Container
Xi-căng-đan	Vụ bê bối	Scandal
Phụ nữ	Đàn bà	Women
Mít-tinh	Buổi họp	Meeting
Phô-mát	Phô mai	Cheese

2.4.2.2. *Partial synonyms*

Partial synonyms in Vietnamese refer to words or phrases that share similar meanings but may have subtle differences in connotation, usage, or context. Here are some examples of partial synonyms in Vietnamese:

-Đẹp, Xinh đẹp và Hấp dẫn

+Đẹp: generally means beautiful

+Xinh đẹp: describe a youthful or charming beauty

+Hấp dẫn: suggest an allure used in a context of attraction or appeal

-Khó khăn, Nan giải và Mưu mẹo

+Khó khăn: generally means difficulties or challenges

+Nan giải: implies a problem that is hard to solve

+Mưu mẹo: suggest something very difficult to deal with, often comes with unexpected twists or to describe a person that hard to understand why they do what they do

These examples demonstrate how partial synonyms in Vietnamese offer speakers a range of options for expressing similar ideas with subtle nuances, allowing for precise communication in different contexts.

2.4.2.2.1. *Stylistic synonyms*

Stylistic synonyms in Vietnamese, or "từ đồng nghĩa phong cách," are words or phrases that share similar meanings but differ in style, tone, or register. They provide speakers and writers with various options for expressing ideas based on the context, audience, or desired effect. Here are some examples of stylistic synonyms in Vietnamese:

Examples: hy sinh, từ trần, nghèo

The state of ceasing to live is characterized by all of the examples above. Hy sinh, on the other hand, is defined as sacrificing one's life for a just cause while feeling deep remorse from the living. The term "từ trần" refers to the death of average individuals who have no feelings. When someone passes away, the term "ngheo" is used to convey an emotionless sense of loss.

2.4.2.2.2. *Near synonym*

Near synonyms are words that have related meanings but are not

entirely interchangeable. While they share similarities in meaning, each word carries its own nuanced connotations or implications, which can subtly alter the message conveyed.

Choosing the right near synonym can enhance the precision and clarity of communication by capturing specific shades of meaning or emphasizing particular aspects of a concept or idea. However, it's essential to recognize that substituting one word for another can subtly shift the tone, emphasis, or interpretation of a sentence or passage.

By understanding the distinctions between near-synonyms and carefully selecting the most appropriate word for a given context, writers and speakers can convey their intended message more effectively and accurately. This nuanced approach to word choice adds depth and richness to language use, facilitating clearer communication and fostering a deeper understanding of the text.

Examples: smart – witty

river – creek

hairy – furry

2.4.2.2.2. Manner synonyms

Verbs that describe acts carried out in various ways make up the majority of words in this category. For instance, the terms *gạch*, *xóa*, and *tẩy* all refer to the act of erasing something; however, *gạch* means to cross the object, *xóa* means to use a duster to make the object vanish, and *tẩy* means to use an eraser to get rid of the object.

2.4.3. Sources of synonym

2.4.3.1 Borrowings

Many Vietnamese synonyms mainly originated in Hán-Việt

For example: *nữ* (hán-việt) has the same meaning as *đàn bà*, *con gái* (woman in English)

2.5. News

2.5.1. Definition

News is information about current events. This may be provided through many different media: word of mouth, printing, postal systems, broadcasting, electronic communication, or through the testimony of observers and witnesses to events. News is sometimes called "hard news" to differentiate it from soft media.

Subject matters for news reports include war, government, politics, education, health, economy, business, fashion, sport, entertainment, and the environment, as well as quirky or unusual events. Government proclamations, concerning royal ceremonies, laws, taxes, public health, and criminals, have been dubbed news since ancient times. Technological and social developments, often driven by government communication and espionage networks, have increased the speed with which news can spread, as well as influenced its content.

2.5.2. Political News

2.5.2.1. The Role of Political News in Society

Political news plays a fundamental role in shaping public discourse, guiding democratic engagement, and influencing societal perceptions of governance. As an essential component of the media landscape, political reporting provides citizens with information about government policies, international relations, political ideologies, and electoral processes. The dissemination of political news enables the public to engage in informed decision-making, foster political awareness, and hold leaders accountable for their actions.

In contemporary society, political news serves multiple functions:

- **Informing the Public:** Accurate and timely reporting ensures that citizens remain aware of political events, decisions, and their broader implications.
- **Shaping Political Narratives:** Media outlets frame political issues through word choice, emphasis, and structural presentation, influencing how audiences interpret political realities.
- **Driving Public Opinion:** Language plays a pivotal role in persuading audiences, shaping ideological beliefs, and mobilizing political action.

- **Facilitating Political Debate:** The media provides a platform for discussions on governance, electoral processes, and policy-making, allowing diverse viewpoints to be expressed and debated.

Given its influence, political news is often subject to media framing, editorial bias, and strategic linguistic choices that shape public understanding of policies and political actors. The selection of synonyms within political reporting is a particularly powerful tool that subtly alters the tone, intensity, and perception of political events, making the study of synonym usage an essential aspect of political linguistics and media studies.

2.5.2.2. The Need to Research Synonym Usage in Political News

Synonyms are not merely interchangeable words; they carry distinct connotations, implications, and ideological weight, which can impact how political events are interpreted by the public. The study of synonym usage in political news is critical for understanding how journalists, politicians, and media outlets craft narratives to influence public perception.

Several key reasons underscore the need for scholarly inquiry into the use of synonyms in political reporting:

- **Understanding Media Framing and Political Influence:** The choice of synonyms can frame political events positively, negatively, or neutrally, shaping the audience's perception of political figures, policies, and national events. For instance, describing a policy change as "reform" versus "overhaul" alters whether the change appears progressive or disruptive. Studying such lexical distinctions helps uncover media strategies used to shape political discourse.
- **Analyzing Bias and Ideological Positioning in Journalism:** Media outlets, whether explicit or implicit, align their reporting with particular ideological perspectives. The selection of synonyms plays a crucial role in signaling editorial bias. For instance, an English news outlet might describe a political leader as "authoritarian" or "strong-handed," with the former carrying negative connotations and the latter portraying decisiveness. Similarly, in Vietnamese political news, choosing between

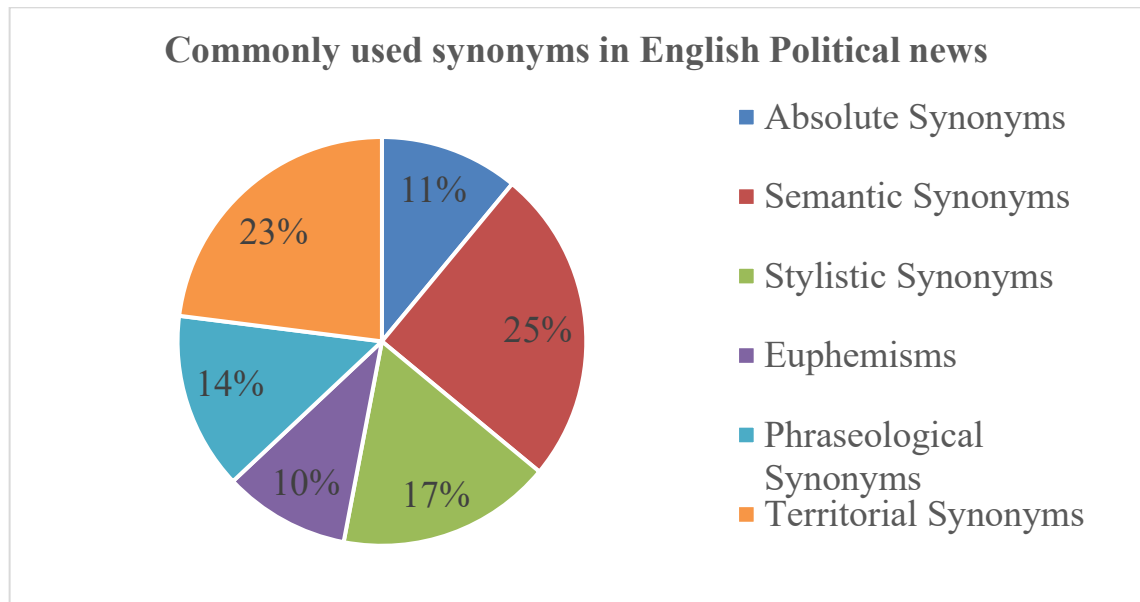
"sáp nhập" (merge) and "gộp chung" (combine) influences how governance restructuring is perceived.

- **Enhancing Translation Accuracy in Political Communication:** Synonyms in political reporting present challenges in cross-linguistic translation. Words that appear synonymous in English and Vietnamese may have different contextual meanings, leading to misinterpretations or ideological shifts in translated texts. By studying synonym usage, translators can gain deeper insights into how word choice affects political messaging across languages, improving the accuracy and neutrality of translations in diplomatic, journalistic, and academic settings.
- **Improving Media Literacy and Critical News Consumption:** With the rise of digital media, audiences encounter vast amounts of political information daily. However, the subtle influence of synonyms on political reporting is often overlooked by the general public. Research on synonyms in political news can contribute to media literacy initiatives, helping citizens critically assess how word choices manipulate perceptions and identify biased reporting.
- **Examining Regional Variations in Political Language:** In Vietnamese political reporting, synonyms can vary based on regional dialects, influencing audience reception across different geographic areas. Understanding these variations is crucial for assessing how synonym usage adapts to linguistic and cultural contexts. Similarly, English political news exhibits differences between British and American English, where synonyms may subtly alter political framing depending on regional expressions.

CHAPTER III: USING SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE POLITICAL NEWS

3.1 Commonly used synonyms

3.1.1 Commonly used synonyms in English Political news



- **Semantic Synonyms (Most Frequent - 25%):** These allow political writers to subtly shift meanings while maintaining clarity. Political discourse often requires precise distinctions, whether softening criticism or reinforcing authority, which makes semantic variation critical.
- **Territorial Synonyms (Second Most Frequent - 23%):** Political terminology varies across regions, making territorial synonyms essential for engaging localized audiences.
- **Stylistic Synonyms (17%):** Political rhetoric depends on tone, formal synonyms project credibility, while casual ones enhance relatability. The necessity to adapt tone based on audience type explains why stylistic synonyms are frequently used.
- **Phraseological Synonyms (14%):** These standard expressions reinforce consistency in political messaging. Familiar phrases make statements more digestible and memorable, helping politicians and journalists maintain a coherent narrative.

- **Euphemisms (10%):** While essential in framing sensitive discussions, euphemisms are less frequent than other synonym categories. They are employed selectively to soften controversial policies.
- **Absolute Synonyms (Least Frequent - 11%):** True absolute synonyms rarely appear because political communication is precise, writers prefer words that offer subtle shifts in meaning rather than exact replacements

3.1.1.1 Absolute Synonyms

Verbs:

- **“terminated” → “ended”**
 - **Context:** Refers to halting funding for HIV-related studies.
 - **Political Implication:** Both terms convey a decisive and final action, implying that the administration has consciously shifted its priorities or reversed prior commitments. By framing the cessation as an "end," the decision can appear more conclusive and perhaps less contentious, as it emphasizes closure rather than interruption. On the other hand, "terminated" suggests a more active and deliberate termination, potentially highlighting the administration's authority and control over the issue. These distinctions can frame public discourse around whether the decision is seen as necessary policy-making or as an abrupt and controversial move
- **“joking” → “kidding”**
 - **Context:** Used to explain Trump’s comments about wanting to be a dictator for a day.
 - **Implication:** Both terms minimize the seriousness of Trump’s comments, framing them as lighthearted banter. However, "joking" carries a slightly more formal tone, which can align with public figures’ attempts to backpedal on controversial statements. "Kidding," meanwhile, is more casual and relatable, potentially softening public perception of his remarks. The choice between these

words can influence whether the narrative is perceived as humor that crosses a line or as something trivial and forgivable.

Nouns:

- “**projects**” → “**initiatives**”
 - **Context:** Describes programs aimed at improving access to HIV treatments.
 - **Political Implication:** By choosing "initiatives," the administration underscores the sense of strategic intent and forward-looking planning, appealing to the narrative of organized governance. Conversely, "projects" feels more practical and neutral, conveying operational or technical undertakings rather than strategic efforts. The word choice helps shape perceptions of the level of ambition and structure behind these efforts, with "initiatives" evoking vision and direction.
- “**grants**” → “**funds**”
 - **Context:** Used to describe monetary support provided for research.
 - **Implication:** The term "grants" emphasizes the specificity of funding provided for targeted research, shining a light on the intentional withdrawal of financial support. This highlights the direct impact on the research community. In contrast, "funds" has a broader and more generalized tone, potentially downplaying the significance of the cuts. This subtle shift in terminology may soften the perception of the administration's responsibility for disrupting vital research initiatives.
- “**critics**” → “**opponents**”
 - **Context:** Refers to individuals or groups opposing Trump’s actions.
 - **Implication:** "Critics" portrays those who challenge Trump’s actions as offering constructive feedback, framing the discussion as part of healthy democratic discourse. On the other hand, "opponents" conveys a more adversarial relationship, implying organized

resistance. The use of "opponents" may polarize the conversation, rallying supporters while amplifying the perception of conflict.

Adjectives:

- **“dedicated” → “committed”**
 - **Context:** Refers to NIH’s focus on restoring evidence-based science.
 - **Political Implication:** Both terms project steadfastness and alignment with principles, but "dedicated" emphasizes focused devotion to a cause, suggesting a rigorous and selfless approach. "Committed," however, implies a broader allegiance, leaving room for adaptability in response to changing circumstances. The distinction can frame the administration’s stance as either deeply entrenched in scientific rigor or pragmatically flexible in pursuing evidence-based science.
- **“terminated” → “halted”**
 - **Context:** Refers to stopping the progress of HIV-related studies.
 - **Implication:** While "terminated" projects an image of finality and deliberate authority, "halted" introduces the possibility of resumption, which may soften public backlash and frame the decision as temporary and strategic. This nuanced difference can influence whether the decision is perceived as an irreversible rejection of past commitments or as a necessary pause for reassessment.
- **“serious” → “earnest”**
 - **Context:** Trump insists that his talk of staying in power is not a joke.
 - **Implication:** Both adjectives underscore sincerity, but "serious" feels more assertive, framing Trump’s remarks as a clear and unequivocal assertion of his stance. In contrast, "earnest" conveys a sense of personal conviction, appealing to audiences who value authenticity and belief-driven actions. These distinctions can shape

whether his claims are perceived as politically calculated or deeply personal.

3.1.1.2. Semantic Synonyms

Verbs:

- **“destroying” → “damaging” → “hurting”**
 - **Context:** Describes the impact of NIH cuts on HIV research infrastructure.
 - **Political Implication:** "Destroying" implies deliberate devastation, portraying funding cuts as a catastrophic blow to public health efforts. This term can be used by critics to emphasize the administration's role in dismantling infrastructure. "Damaging" feels less extreme, suggesting unintended harm, which may be more neutral and less accusatory. "Hurting" minimizes the impact further, framing the cuts as gradual and recoverable. These distinctions influence whether the narrative around the cuts is seen as a systemic failure or a temporary setback.
- **“expand” → “increase” → “grow”**
 - **Context:** Refers to efforts to broaden access to HIV prevention treatments like PrEP.
 - **Political Implication:** "Expand" suggests intentional and strategic efforts to broaden access to treatments, appealing to progressive audiences. "Increase" is more neutral, reflecting quantitative growth without necessarily implying a deliberate strategy. "Grow" feels organic and less structured, which may resonate with audiences who prefer gradual and community-driven approaches. The choice of language shapes perceptions of the administration's goals as either intentional or incidental.
- **“destabilize” → “undermine” → “weaken”**
 - **Context:** "Destabilize" portrays deliberate and chaotic disruption, emphasizing significant harm to systems or norms, often resonating with audiences concerned about stability and governance.

"Undermine" suggests subtle, targeted actions with intent to erode or weaken structures, appealing to critiques of calculated maneuvers. "Weaken" feels broader and less specific, focusing on outcomes rather than intent, and may appear neutral in tone. These terms shape whether actions are seen as reckless dismantling, covert erosion, or general reduction in strength. Commonly used in discussions about challenges to democratic norms or systemic resilience.

- **Implication:** "Destabilize" implies chaos, "undermine" suggests targeted action, and "weaken" feels broader.

- **"circumvent" → "get around"**

- **Context:** Describes possible efforts to bypass constitutional limits.
- **Implication:** "Circumvent" conveys calculated intent, framing actions as deliberate efforts to bypass legal or constitutional limits. This term appeals to critics who view such maneuvers as undermining established norms and processes, emphasizing the seriousness and thoughtfulness behind the efforts. On the other hand, "get around" minimizes the perception of deliberation, portraying the actions as informal and pragmatic rather than overtly disrespectful of rules. This phrasing softens critiques, making the decision seem like clever problem-solving rather than an attack on foundational principles.

Nouns:

- **"inequities" → "gaps" → "problems"**

- **Context:** Refers to barriers in accessing HIV treatments.
- **Political Implication:** "Inequities" highlights systemic injustice and frames issues as moral failures needing urgent reform, appealing to audiences advocating for equity. "Gaps" simplifies the concept, framing barriers as logistical challenges rather than structural failures, making it relatable to broader audiences. "Problems" generalizes the issue further, focusing on practical obstacles while risking oversimplification of underlying systemic causes. These

terms influence narratives around whether reforms aim to address injustice or operational inefficiencies, often appearing in healthcare policy discussions and public health reports.

- **“epidemic” → “crisis” → “problem”**
 - **Context:** Refers to the ongoing HIV epidemic in the U.S.
 - **Implication:** "Epidemic" highlights the scope and urgency of the situation, framing HIV as a widespread, critical public health concern demanding immediate action. "Crisis" emphasizes the severity and societal impact, appealing to narratives that stress the broader consequences of the epidemic. Meanwhile, "problem" simplifies the language, making the issue more relatable while downplaying its intensity and systemic nature. These terms influence whether the discussion focuses on technical precision, societal urgency, or casual framing of challenges. Commonly used in policy debates and public health reports addressing HIV
- **“lame duck” → “outgoing leader” → “ineffectual officeholder”**
 - **Context:** Refers to a president nearing the end of their term.
 - **Implication:** "Lame duck" is colloquial and widely recognized, emphasizing a leader's dwindling influence during their final term. "Outgoing leader" offers a neutral alternative, focusing on the transition rather than loss of power. "Ineffectual officeholder" shifts to a more academic tone, underscoring perceived incapacity or inability to effect change. These terms frame the leader's role in varying degrees of influence and transition, often appearing in political discussions about administrations nearing the end of their tenure.

Adjectives:

- **“downstream” → “secondary” → “related”**
 - **Context:** Refers to the effects of HIV cuts on healthcare.

- **Political Implication:** "Downstream" emphasizes causality and flow, highlighting the ripple effects of policy decisions on broader societal outcomes. "Secondary" downplays the direct impact, framing issues as less immediate or significant in hierarchy. "Related" broadens the connection, suggesting tangential rather than direct effects, simplifying the narrative. These distinctions influence whether policies are viewed as integral drivers of societal change or peripheral influences. Commonly referenced in discussions about public health impacts of funding cuts.
- **“drastic” → “severe” → “big”**
 - **Context:** Describes the extent of funding cuts.
 - **Implication:** "Drastic" conveys suddenness and extremity, framing funding cuts as critical and potentially reckless. "Severe" emphasizes intensity without the dramatic undertone, appealing to audiences seeking precise language. "Big" simplifies the description, making it casual while downplaying the urgency or complexity. These adjectives shape whether the narrative focuses on the scale or abruptness of policy changes, often referenced in critiques of budgetary decisions.
- **“autocratic” → “dictatorial” → “bossy”**
 - **Context:** Describes Trump’s leadership style and disregard for norms.
 - **Implication:** "Autocratic" is formal and political, framing leadership as authoritarian and dismissive of democratic norms. "Dictatorial" intensifies the critique, emphasizing overt control and restriction of liberties. "Bossy" minimizes the seriousness, framing actions as overly controlling in a casual, relatable way. These terms influence whether leadership is seen as oppressive or simply overbearing, commonly referenced in critiques of executive styles and approaches to power.

3.1.1.3. Stylistic Synonyms

Verbs:

- **Formal:** “facilitate” → **Casual:** “help”
 - **Context:** Used in studies to improve treatment access.
 - **Political Implication:** "Facilitate" highlights the administration's role as a neutral enabler, emphasizing strategic action to improve access. This formal term projects professionalism and accountability. In contrast, "help" conveys a more personal and relatable image, resonating with audiences who value moral obligation and empathy in policymaking.
- **Formal:** “inserted” → **Casual:** “put forward”
 - **Context:** Refers to how Trump introduced the concept of a third term into public discourse.
 - **Implication:** "Inserted" conveys a deliberate, calculated action, framing the introduction of a concept as intentional and authoritative. "Put forward" feels more casual and suggests offering an idea for consideration rather than imposing it, softening perceptions of control. These terms influence whether the action is seen as assertive or collaborative. Frequently used in discussions about introducing controversial ideas, such as Trump's suggestion of a third term.

Nouns:

- **Formal:** “disparities” → **Casual:** “gaps”
 - **Context:** Used in proposals to target equity in PrEP access.
 - **Political Implication:** "Disparities" frames the issue as systemic and urgent, appealing to equity-focused narratives. "Gaps" simplifies the problem, emphasizing logistical barriers that require practical solutions rather than ideological shifts. This choice of language influences whether the narrative prioritizes justice or efficiency.
- **Formal:** “executive power” → **Casual:** “control over the government”

- **Context:** Discusses Trump pushing the boundaries of presidential authority.
- **Implication:** "Executive power" emphasizes formal authority rooted in constitutional principles, appealing to audiences focused on the legitimacy of governance. "Control over the government" simplifies this, framing authority in practical terms while downplaying institutional underpinnings. These choices shape whether the discussion revolves around legal structures or functional leadership. Common in debates about presidential authority and its limits.

Adjectives:

- **Formal:** “evidence-based” → **Casual:** “proven”
 - **Context:** Describes the focus of NIH policies.
 - **Political Implication:** "Evidence-based" underscores scientific rigor and data-driven decisions, projecting credibility and rational policymaking. "Proven" simplifies the term, emphasizing practicality and results, resonating with general audiences. The choice influences whether priorities are framed as methodologically grounded or empirically effective. Commonly used in discussions of NIH policies and healthcare reforms.
- **Formal:** “constitutional” → **Casual:** “legal”
 - **Context:** Trump’s critics question his adherence to constitutional norms.
 - **Implication:** "Constitutional" suggests adherence to foundational democratic principles, emphasizing accountability and respect for established norms. "Legal" feels broader and less precise, appealing to audiences who value straightforward governance but may not be as invested in constitutional details. This distinction shapes whether critiques focus on technical violations or broader legal concerns.

3.1.1.4. Territorial Synonyms

Verbs:

- **American:** “scrapping” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “getting rid of”
 - **Context:** Refers to cutting entire disease categories from research.
 - **Political Implication:** "Scrapping" conveys a sense of abruptness and disregard for consequences, appealing to critics who view the action as reckless. "Getting rid of" feels less intentional, softening the perception of harm while framing the decision as pragmatic. These terms influence whether the narrative portrays the cuts as ideologically driven or fiscally necessary.
- **American:** “overrule” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “reverse”
 - **Context:** Refers to dismissing or negating existing rules or judgments.
 - **Implication:** "Overrule" implies authority and finality, suggesting deliberate rejection of previous decisions. "Reverse" feels less confrontational, framing the action as corrective and procedural. These terms influence whether decisions are seen as authoritative or collaborative. Often used in legal and political contexts, such as overturning precedents or revising policies.

Nouns:

- **American:** “funding” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “financing”
 - **Context:** Refers to supporting medical research.
 - **Political Implication:** "Funding" emphasizes active resource allocation, projecting the government’s role as a direct supporter of research. "Financing" suggests a broader strategy, emphasizing collaboration and investment. This distinction influences whether the administration is seen as a primary driver of public health efforts or as a facilitator of external partnerships.
- **American:** “cocktail party conversation” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “chitchat”

- **Context:** Downplays serious discussions as light, informal chatter.
- **Implication:** "Cocktail party conversation" implies informal, intellectual discourse, appealing to elite or academic audiences. "Chitchat" is more casual, suggesting light, inconsequential discussions, resonating with broader audiences. These terms shape whether discussions are framed as insightful debates or trivial exchanges. Commonly used to downplay serious topics in public commentary.

Adjectives:

- **American:** “dedicated” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “committed”
 - **Context:** Refers to NIH’s focus on restoring gold-standard science.
 - **Political Implication:** "Dedicated" conveys steadfast focus on scientific excellence, aligning with narratives about restoring integrity in research. "Committed" emphasizes broader alignment with priorities, allowing room for adaptability while retaining focus on outcomes. These terms shape perceptions of the administration’s approach as either singularly focused or pragmatically balanced.
- **American:** “impeachable” → **British Casual Equivalent:** “actionable”
 - **Context:** Refers to grounds for legal or political action against Trump.
 - **Implication:** "Impeachable" highlights a constitutional basis for removal, emphasizing legal and political severity. "Actionable" broadens the scope, framing actions as grounds for general accountability rather than impeachment specifically. These terms influence whether critiques focus on constitutional violations or broader misconduct. Frequently referenced in analyses of Trump’s presidency.

3.1.1.5. *Euphemisms*

Verbs:

- “terminate” → “pause”

- **Context:** Refers to ending research funding abruptly.
- **Political Implication:** "Terminate" projects authority and finality, framing actions as decisive and irreversible. "Pause" softens the tone, suggesting temporary suspension and leaving room for future reconsideration. This choice affects whether actions are seen as permanent or flexible. Commonly used in budget cuts or research funding decisions.
- **“circumvent” → “stretch the rules”**
 - **Context:** Refers to bypassing constitutional limits.
 - **Implication:** "Stretch the rules" minimizes the perception of deliberate overreach, framing actions as creative problem-solving rather than overtly dismissive of norms. This euphemism appeals to audiences who value pragmatism but risks alienating those concerned about accountability and governance integrity.

Nouns:

- **“equity studies” → “diversity initiatives”**
 - **Context:** Refers to research projects focusing on underrepresented communities.
 - **Political Implication:** "Equity studies" emphasizes fairness and justice, aligning with narratives addressing systemic inequalities. "Diversity initiatives" broadens the scope, framing efforts as inclusive without the same moral urgency, appealing to wider audiences. These terms shape whether reforms are seen as transformative or incremental. Frequently referenced in research funding and DEI policy discussions.
- **“power grabs” → “moves”**
 - **Context:** Discusses efforts to retain authority beyond limits.
 - **Implication:** "Moves" neutralizes the confrontational tone of "power grabs," presenting actions as strategic leadership rather than opportunistic overreach. This choice of language may soften

criticism from opponents while reinforcing the image of bold decision-making among supporters.

Adjectives:

- **“drastic” → “significant” → “bad”**
 - **Context:** Describes the scale of NIH funding cuts.
 - **Political Implication:** "Drastic" emphasizes the urgency and severity of funding cuts, framing them as bold but potentially controversial. "Significant" balances the narrative, suggesting impactful decisions without overemphasizing their consequences. "Bad" simplifies the description, resonating with casual language but risking oversimplification. These terms influence whether the cuts are seen as necessary reforms or critical failures.
- **“autocratic” → “strong-handed”**
 - **Context:** Describes Trump’s leadership approach.
 - **Implication:** "Autocratic" highlights authoritarianism, framing leadership as dismissive of democratic norms. "Strong-handed" softens this perception, suggesting decisiveness and control, appealing to audiences who value strength in leadership. These terms influence whether actions are seen as oppressive or necessary. Commonly referenced in critiques of Trump’s governance style.

3.1.1.6. Phraseological Synonyms

Verbs (Within Phrases):

- **“scrapping an entire category of disease research” → “cutting off disease studies”**
 - **Context:** Describes eliminating HIV funding.
 - **Political Implication:** "Scrapping" highlights ideological motivations behind funding cuts, appealing to critics who view the decision as unjustified. "Cutting off" feels more neutral, framing the action as a pragmatic response to shifting priorities. These phrases

influence whether the narrative portrays the administration as reckless or responsible.

- **“stirring the pot” → “causing a scene”**
 - **Context:** Describes Trump’s tendency to provoke.
 - **Implication:** "Stirring the pot" implies intentional provocation, framing actions as disruptive yet calculated. "Causing a scene" feels less intentional, suggesting impulsiveness or dramatics. These terms influence whether behavior is seen as tactically disruptive or erratic. Often referenced in commentary on Trump’s provocative remarks or actions.

Nouns (Within Phrases):

- **“destroying infrastructure” → “tearing down the system”**
 - **Context:** Describes the impact of funding cuts.
 - **Political Implication:** "Destroying infrastructure" highlights deliberate and targeted dismantling, framing actions as a failure of governance. "Tearing down the system" broadens the critique, suggesting systemic collapse rather than targeted destruction. These terms shape perceptions of responsibility and impact. Commonly referenced in discussions about budget cuts to public systems.
- **“power grabs” → “shady deals”**
 - **Context:** Refers to efforts to maintain authority.
 - **Implication:** "Power grabs" emphasizes overt authoritarianism, framing actions as aggressive efforts to centralize control. "Shady deals" shifts focus to potential dishonesty or corruption, framing actions as underhanded rather than overtly authoritarian. These terms influence whether critiques focus on overreach or ethics. Commonly referenced in analyses of executive actions.

Adjectives (Within Phrases):

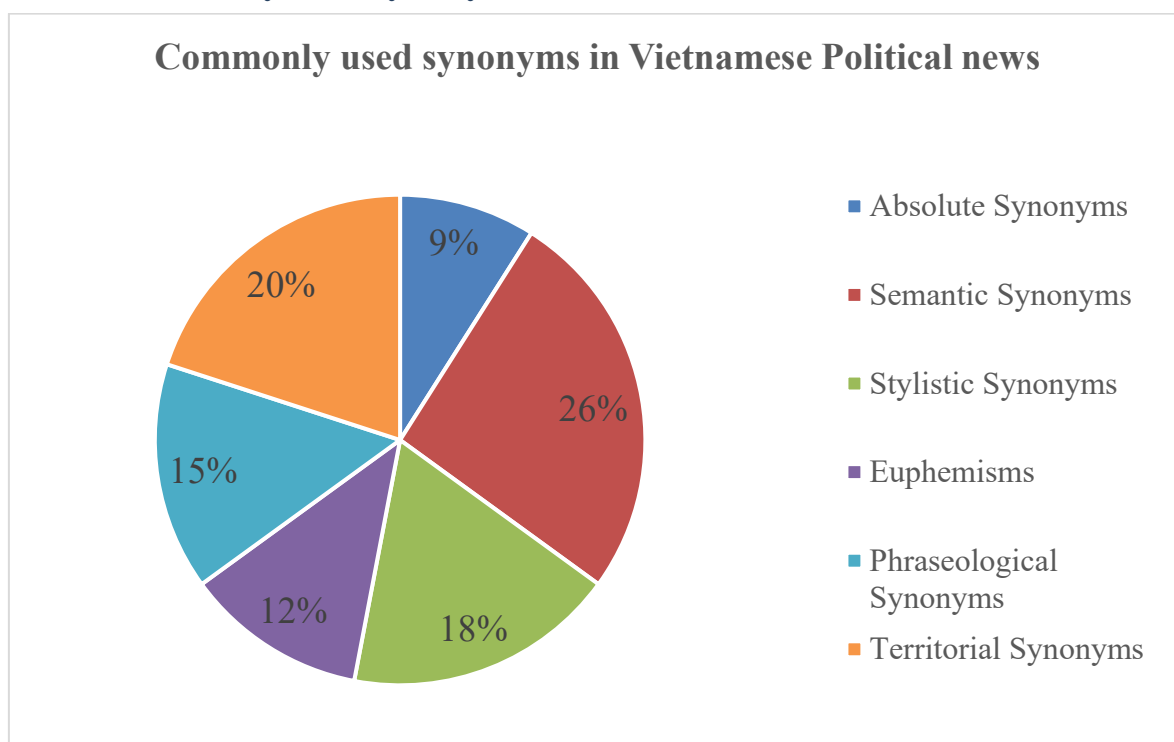
- **“dedicated to restoring gold-standard science” → “focused on better research”**

- **Context:** Refers to NIH priorities.
- **Political Implication:** "Dedicated to restoring gold-standard science" emphasizes a return to rigorous, evidence-based practices, appealing to narratives of reform and credibility. "Focused on better research" simplifies the goal, making it more relatable while downplaying urgency or prestige. These terms influence whether efforts are framed as corrective or aspirational. Frequently referenced in discussions of NIH priorities.

Adjectives (Within Phrases):

- **“mocking” → “making fun of”**
 - **Context:** Trump’s attitude toward critics and the Constitution.
 - **Implication:** "Mocking" highlights intentional disrespect, framing actions as harmful and dismissive. "Making fun of" minimizes the severity, framing behavior as casual humor rather than deliberate antagonism. These terms influence whether critiques focus on harm or triviality. Commonly referenced in discussions of Trump’s remarks about critics or norms.

3.3.2. Commonly used synonyms in Vietnamese Political news



- **Semantic Synonyms (26%) - Most Frequent:** Semantic synonyms dominate political discourse due to their ability to convey nuanced meanings and subtle shifts in tone. Political reporting requires precise wording to frame governance decisions in ways that align with ideological positions.
- **Territorial Synonyms (20%) - Second Most Frequent:** Vietnam has diverse regional linguistic variations, which necessitate the frequent use of territorial synonyms to engage audiences across different provinces.
- **Stylistic Synonyms (18%) - Third Most Frequent:** Political communication in Vietnam relies heavily on adjusting tone based on audience expectations. Formal synonyms enhance credibility, whereas casual alternatives make political messaging more approachable. The high percentage of stylistic synonyms indicates the importance of tailoring language to different contexts.
- **Phraseological Synonyms (15%):** Familiar phrases reinforce consistency and standard messaging, making political discourse more digestible and memorable. The reliance on phraseological synonyms suggests the necessity of structured expressions in discussions about governance.
- **Euphemisms (12%):** Euphemisms are strategically used to soften discussions about governance decisions, particularly sensitive topics like workforce reductions or policy shifts. The presence of euphemisms demonstrates a balance between transparency and diplomatic phrasing.
- **Absolute Synonyms (9%) - Least Frequent:** Fully interchangeable synonyms are rare in political reporting since precise distinctions in meaning are preferred over exact replacements. The lower frequency of absolute synonyms reflects a need for differentiated terms to convey political messaging effectively

3.1.2.1. Absolute Synonyms

Verbs:

- **“Tinh gọn” (Streamline) → Informal: “Thu hẹp” (Narrow down)**
 - **Implication:** "Tinh gọn" highlights a targeted approach to reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies, signaling a commitment to modernization and reform. This term conveys precision and deliberate effort, appealing to audiences who value strategic leadership. "Thu hẹp" softens the tone, portraying reforms as practical solutions rather than transformative changes, resonating with stakeholders seeking manageable improvements. The choice influences whether actions are perceived as bold or incremental.
 - **Context:** Used in discussions about restructuring government agencies and operations.
- **“Bỏ” (Remove) → Informal: “Gỡ” (Take out)**
 - **Implication:** "Bỏ" projects authority and finality, signaling the necessity of eliminating redundancies as part of systemic reform. It appeals to audiences focused on administrative modernization and accountability. "Gỡ" simplifies the narrative, framing the removal as a practical and relatable process rather than a sweeping reform. These terms influence whether actions are framed as structured reform or pragmatic solutions.
 - **Context:** Typically used when referencing the elimination of redundant governance structures or procedures.

Nouns:

- **“Hợp nhất” (Unification) → Informal: “Gộp chung” (Combine)**
 - **Implication:** "Hợp nhất" emphasizes strategic integration aimed at strengthening governance and reducing fragmentation, appealing to narratives of efficiency and national unity. Conversely, "Gộp chung"

simplifies the concept, resonating with audiences who prefer relatable framing that focuses on collaboration. These terms shape whether reforms are seen as calculated measures or accessible adjustments.

- **Context:** Discussed in the context of merging administrative units for streamlined management.
- **“Đơn vị hành chính” (Administrative unit) → Informal: “Cơ quan quản lý” (Management agency)**
 - **Implication:** "Đơn vị hành chính" emphasizes institutional organization and professionalism, projecting a technical focus that appeals to stakeholders interested in governance structures. "Cơ quan quản lý" conveys a practical and outcome-oriented image, making the term more relatable to the general public. These terms impact whether reforms are seen as technical restructuring or accessible management changes.
 - **Context:** Discusses reducing redundancy and overlapping responsibilities in administrative bodies.

Adjectives:

- **“Cồng kềnh” (Bulky) → Informal: “Nặng nề” (Heavy)**
 - **Implication:** "Cồng kềnh" critiques inefficiencies within governance systems, highlighting the urgent need for streamlined reforms to create responsive administrations. This term appeals to reform advocates seeking decisive action against bureaucratic bottlenecks. "Nặng nề" softens the critique, framing inefficiencies as burdensome yet solvable, resonating with broader audiences. These choices influence whether reforms are framed as urgent or manageable.
 - **Context:** Used to describe the overlapping and redundant administrative systems.
- **“Manh mún” (Fragmented) → Informal: “Rải rác” (Scattered)**

- **Implication:** "Manh mún" emphasizes systemic disunity and inefficiency, appealing to narratives advocating comprehensive reform to promote cohesion and functionality. "Rải rác" shifts the focus to practical challenges, making the critique more relatable to general audiences. These terms influence whether reforms are framed as structural overhauls or operational fixes.
- **Context:** Describes the issues with small-scale administrative units limiting development.

3.1.2.2. Semantic Synonyms

Verbs:

- **“Sáp nhập” (Merge) → Informal: “Nhập chung” (Join together)**
 - **Implication:** "Sáp nhập" conveys deliberate planning and strategic consolidation, appealing to audiences focused on systemic reform and sustainability. "Nhập chung" simplifies the narrative, emphasizing practical cooperation and collaboration rather than formal integration, resonating with everyday stakeholders. These terms frame reforms as transformative or practical.
 - **Context:** Refers to merging provinces with small populations and geographic areas.
- **“Loại bỏ” (Eliminate) → Informal: “Bỏ đi” (Get rid of)**
 - **Implication:** "Loại bỏ" highlights decisive leadership and thorough reform aimed at removing inefficiencies, appealing to audiences who value bold administrative actions. "Bỏ đi" softens the tone, presenting changes as routine adjustments that are necessary for progress. These terms impact whether reforms are seen as systemic or incremental.
 - **Context:** Discusses eliminating district-level governance as part of streamlining efforts.

Nouns:

- **“Bản đồ hành chính” (Administrative map) → Informal: “Sơ đồ vùng” (Regional layout)**
 - **Implication:** "Bản đồ hành chính" conveys a data-driven approach to strategic planning, emphasizing equitable resource allocation and balanced development. "Sơ đồ vùng" simplifies the narrative, making geographic realignment more accessible to the public. These terms impact whether reforms are seen as analytical or practical solutions.
 - **Context:** Relevant in discussions about redefining provincial boundaries.
- **“Nguồn lực” (Resources) → Informal: “Tiền của và người làm” (Money and workforce)**
 - **Implication:** "Nguồn lực" underscores the systemic importance of resource allocation in achieving effective governance, appealing to audiences invested in fiscal responsibility and accountability. "Tiền của và người làm" breaks the concept into tangible terms, making resource optimization accessible to broader audiences. These terms influence whether reforms are perceived as technically robust or relatable and actionable.
 - **Context:** Refers to challenges in distributing resources effectively.

Adjectives:

- **“Tinh giản” (Simplified) → Informal: “Bớt rườm rà” (Less complicated)**
 - **Implication:** "Tinh giản" conveys strategic intent and professionalism, framing administrative reforms as comprehensive measures to enhance efficiency and eliminate waste. This term appeals to stakeholders advocating for thoughtful governance improvements. "Bớt rườm rà" uses informal language to emphasize the immediate and tangible benefits of simplification, resonating with everyday citizens seeking straightforward improvements in

bureaucratic processes. These choices influence whether the narrative highlights technical strategy or practical solutions.

- **Context:** Used to describe efforts to simplify management processes.
- **“Cồng kềnh” (Bulky) → Informal: “Quá tải” (Overloaded)**
 - **Implication:** "Cồng kềnh" critiques inefficiencies in governance structures with a formal tone, signaling the need for systemic reforms to address bloated bureaucracies. It appeals to audiences seeking in-depth analyses of governance inefficiencies. "Quá tải" softens the language, presenting the critique in relatable terms that highlight burdensome processes without the analytical undertone, resonating with citizens frustrated by delays and inefficiencies. These terms influence whether reforms are viewed as urgent, analytical overhauls or accessible adjustments.
 - **Context:** Describes the burden of managing excessive administrative layers.

3.1.2.3. Stylistic Synonyms

Verbs:

- **Formal: “Thực hiện” (Implement) → Casual: “Làm cho xong” (Get it done)****
 - **Implication:** "Thực hiện" conveys formality and precision, emphasizing deliberate, methodical execution of policies. It appeals to those who value professionalism and accountability in governance. On the other hand, "làm cho xong" suggests practicality and urgency, resonating with audiences who prioritize quick, tangible results. This word choice affects whether reforms are framed as systematic initiatives or pragmatic actions.
 - **Context:** Used in discussions about executing reforms for impactful governance.

Nouns:

- **Formal:** “Cuộc cách mạng” (Revolution) → **Casual:** “Thay đổi lớn” (Big change)**
 - **Implication:** "Cuộc cách mạng" highlights transformational and groundbreaking efforts, aligning reforms with significant societal or institutional progress. This term appeals to audiences who favor visionary leadership and innovation. The casual counterpart, "thay đổi lớn," simplifies the framing, emphasizing visible improvements without the gravity of revolution, making it relatable to a broader audience.
 - **Context:** Applied to highlight sweeping changes in governance.
- **Formal:** “Kết luận” (Conclusion) → **Casual:** “Ý kiến” (Opinion)**
 - **Implication:** "Kết luận" emphasizes finality and authoritative decision-making, highlighting accountability and clarity. This term appeals to stakeholders looking for well-reasoned outcomes. In contrast, "ý kiến" has a softer tone, suggesting input or suggestions rather than a binding resolution, resonating with audiences seeking collaborative dialogue.
 - **Context:** Refers to official announcements on merging administrative units.

Adjectives:

- **Formal:** “Quan trọng” (Significant) → **Casual:** “Đáng chú ý” (Notable)**
 - **Implication:** "Quan trọng" underscores the critical importance of governance reforms, projecting urgency and focus. It appeals to stakeholders who value decisive action. "Đáng chú ý" softens the emphasis, making the issues more accessible and conversational, suitable for engaging a broader audience. These terms influence perceptions of the reform's weight and necessity.

- **Context:** Used to emphasize the need for reforms across various administrative levels.

3.1.2.4. Territorial Synonyms

Verbs:

- **Vietnamese Regional Usage:** “Xóa bỏ” (Remove) → **Alternative Usage:** “Gạt đi” (Sweep away)**
 - **Implication:** "Xóa bỏ" conveys assertive and deliberate action to eliminate redundancies, appealing to audiences who value decisive reform. The alternative, "gạt đi," softens the tone and suggests practical adjustments rather than bold interventions. These terms influence whether the removal of administrative layers is perceived as transformational or routine.
 - **Context:** Relevant to discussions about eliminating district-level governance structures.

Nouns:

- **Vietnamese Regional Usage:** “Tỉnh” (Province) → **Alternative Usage:** “Vùng” (Region)**
 - **Implication:** "Tỉnh" retains traditional and formal connotations, emphasizing the role of provinces as foundational units of national governance. "Vùng" shifts the focus toward regional planning and broader economic goals, appealing to narratives of interconnectedness and collaboration. These terms shape perceptions of the scope and ambition of governance reforms.
 - **Context:** Used to discuss regional consolidation efforts for stronger governance.

Adjectives:

- **Vietnamese Regional Usage:** “Hiệu quả” (Effective) → **Alternative Usage:** “Thích hợp” (Appropriate)**
 - **Implication:** "Hợp lý" underscores practicality and logic, presenting reforms as necessary and well-considered. "Thích đáng" emphasizes fairness and alignment with public interest, resonating with audiences who prioritize equity in governance decisions. These terms affect whether reforms are framed as rational solutions or equitable measures.
 - **Context:** Applied to emphasize the practical benefits of streamlined governance.
- **Northern Vietnamese Usage:** “Hợp lý” (Reasonable) → **Southern Vietnamese Usage:** “Thích đáng” (Justifiable)**
 - **Implication:** Emphasizes the feasibility and fairness of reforms, appealing to diverse regional perspectives.
 - **Context:** Used to describe proposed provincial mergers based on specific criteria.

3.1.2.5. Euphemisms

Verbs:

- **“Giảm biên chế” (Downsize staff) → Informal: “Cắt bớt người làm” (Cut some jobs)**
 - **Implication:** "Giảm biên chế" strategically reframes workforce reductions as an efficiency-driven decision, helping to mitigate negative connotations associated with job losses. It signals fiscal responsibility and optimization, appealing to reform advocates who value cost-cutting measures. In contrast, "cắt bớt người làm" feels more grounded and relatable, framing the reduction as a practical necessity rather than a formal policy directive. These terms influence perceptions of leadership focus, whether it's on administrative improvement or pragmatic responses to financial challenges.

- **Context:** Used in the context of restructuring administrative teams.

Nouns:

- **“Xóa cấp huyện” (Remove district level) → Informal: “Bỏ cấp trung gian” (Drop intermediary level)**
 - **Implication:** "Xóa cấp huyện" presents the removal of district-level administration as a bold modernization effort, emphasizing long-term benefits like improved governance efficiency and streamlined decision-making. This phrasing appeals to audiences who support transformational reforms. On the other hand, "bỏ cấp trung gian" softens the language, making the change feel less disruptive and easier for communities to accept. It signals practical problem-solving over sweeping changes, resonating with citizens seeking clarity and simplicity in administrative processes.
 - **Context:** Relevant to proposals for simplifying administrative structures.
- **“Tinh giản” (Simplification) → Informal: “Bớt rườm rà” (Reduce excess)**
 - **Implication:** "Tinh giản" projects professionalism and intent, portraying administrative streamlining as a methodical, improvement-driven effort that targets excess and waste. This term emphasizes a calculated strategy to modernize governance structures and appeals to reform advocates. "Bớt rườm rà," in contrast, is more conversational and relatable, presenting the concept as straightforward and easily digestible. The choice influences whether the reform is framed as technical precision or common-sense practicality.
 - **Context:** Refers to simplifying administrative processes to lower costs and improve operations.

Adjectives:

- **“Chồng chéo” (Overlapping) → Informal: “Rườm rà” (Unnecessary)**
 - **Implication:** "Chồng chéo" critiques inefficiencies with a formal tone, signaling the need for systemic reforms to address bureaucratic redundancies. It appeals to audiences seeking detailed solutions to structural flaws in governance. "Rườm rà" offers a more informal critique, resonating with general audiences by framing the issue as one of excessive complexity and operational hurdles. These terms help shape the narrative around governance reforms, whether they emphasize comprehensive structural adjustments or incremental simplifications
 - **Context:** Describes redundancy in administrative responsibilities.
- **“Phức tạp” (Complex) → Informal: “Khó hiểu” (Confusing)**
 - **Implication:** "Phức tạp" highlights systemic challenges with a technical tone, underscoring the need for thoughtful interventions to address convoluted governance structures. "Khó hiểu," on the other hand, focuses on the immediate accessibility of processes, appealing to audiences who value clarity and user-friendliness. These terms influence whether reforms are framed as long-term technical fixes or as immediate solutions to public frustrations.
 - **Context:** Highlights inefficiencies in managing overlapping administrative layers.

3.1.2.6. Phraseological Synonyms

Verbs (Within Phrases):

- **“Sáp nhập hành chính” (Administrative merger) → Informal: “Nhập chung bộ máy” (Combine systems)**
 - **Implication:** "Sáp nhập hành chính" emphasizes structured, formal integration aimed at achieving administrative efficiency and cohesion. It conveys a sense of reform grounded in strategic planning and appeals to audiences focused on systemic change. "Nhập chung bộ máy," however, shifts the tone to a more practical, collaborative

process, framing the consolidation as a manageable solution. This distinction affects whether reforms are perceived as ambitious overhauls or practical adjustments.

- **Context:** Discussed in proposals for merging provinces with small populations.
- **Sáp nhập các tỉnh” (Merge provinces) → Informal: “Gộp các địa phương lại” (Combine areas)**
 - **Implication:** "Sáp nhập các tỉnh" underscores a formal, high-level effort to merge provinces, signaling systemic change and alignment with broader development objectives. It appeals to audiences who prioritize strategic planning and large-scale reform. Meanwhile, "gộp các địa phương lại" uses accessible language to frame the merger as a cooperative, grassroots initiative. This phrasing impacts how the reform is interpreted, whether as a top-down restructuring or a community-driven change.
 - **Context:** Describes combining administrative units to improve resource management.

Nouns (Within Phrases):

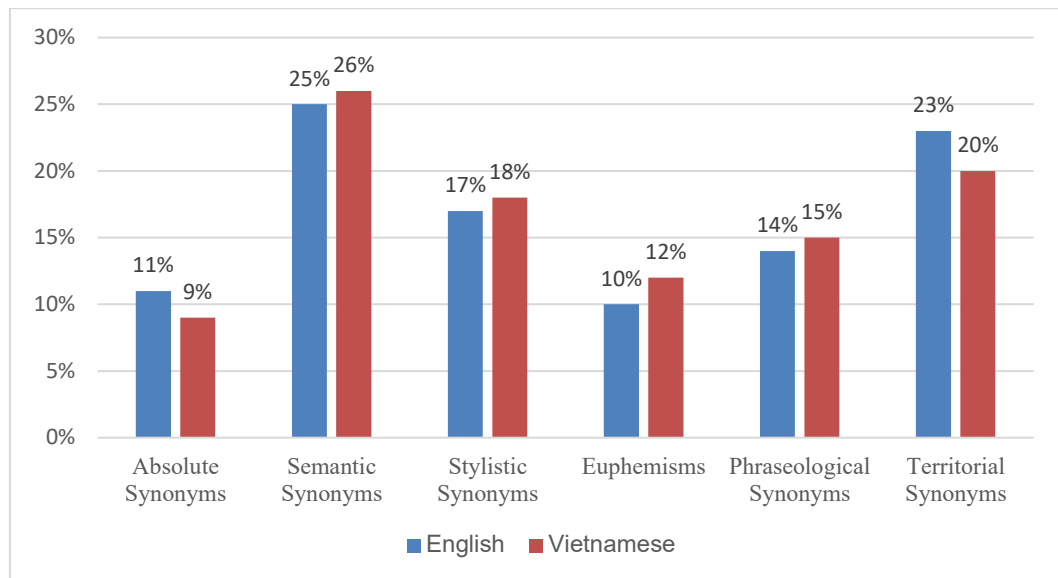
- **“Động lực phát triển” (Development driving force) → Informal: “Lực đẩy kinh tế” (Economic push)**
 - **Implication:** "Động lực phát triển" projects a forward-looking vision, emphasizing reforms as transformative engines of regional and national growth. It appeals to audiences who value long-term planning and systematic progress. "Lực đẩy kinh tế" simplifies the concept, focusing on tangible economic impacts that resonate with the general public. These terms influence whether the narrative emphasizes strategic foresight or immediate financial benefits.
 - **Context:** Refers to strengthening administrative units for national progress.

Adjectives (Within Phrases):

- **“Cồng kềnh” (Bulky bureaucracy) → Informal: “Bộ máy phức tạp” (Complex system)**
 - **Implication:** "Cồng kềnh" critiques bureaucratic inefficiencies with a formal, analytical tone, calling for comprehensive reforms. It appeals to stakeholders who value precise, data-driven approaches to governance improvements. "Bộ máy phức tạp" shifts the tone to highlight complexity in relatable terms, appealing to citizens who seek practical fixes to administrative challenges. These choices influence whether reforms are framed as institutional restructuring or operational simplifications.
 - **Context:** Highlights areas of governance requiring reform.
- **“Hiệu quả” (Effective) → Informal: “Tốt” (Good)**
 - **Implication:** "Hiệu quả" underscores measurable outcomes and systemic improvements, signaling accountability and a results-oriented approach to governance. It appeals to audiences who value transparency and effectiveness in policymaking. "Tốt" simplifies the narrative, emphasizing general improvement without the specificity of measurable impacts, making it relatable to broader audiences. These terms influence whether reforms are framed as technically sound or broadly beneficial.
 - **Context:** Describes expected improvements in governance through structural changes.

3.2. Similarities and differences

- Political news reporting in both English and Vietnamese relies heavily on synonyms to shape narratives, signal political intent, and adjust tone depending on the audience. Synonyms allow journalists to frame political events in ways that align with ideological perspectives, rhetorical strategies, and regional linguistic preferences. While there are similarities in how synonyms are used, certain linguistic and cultural differences lead to distinct approaches in each language.



- **Absolute Synonyms:** English (11%) vs. Vietnamese (9%) → English uses slightly more interchangeable terms.
- **Semantic Synonyms:** English (25%) vs. Vietnamese (26%) → Semantic synonyms appear at similar rates, reflecting nuanced word choices in political discourse.
- **Stylistic Synonyms:** English (17%) vs. Vietnamese (18%) → Both languages adjust tone and register in comparable proportions.
- **Euphemisms:** English (10%) vs. Vietnamese (12%) → Vietnamese political reporting uses more euphemisms, possibly to soften direct language.
- **Phraseological Synonyms:** English (14%) vs. Vietnamese (15%) → Both languages rely on standard expressions, but Vietnamese political news incorporates slightly more.
- **Territorial Synonyms:** English (23%) vs. Vietnamese (20%) → English political discourse exhibits more variation based on regional vocabulary and distinctions.

3.2.1. Similarities

- **Framing Political Messages:** Both languages utilize synonyms to subtly shift meanings, making political statements more persuasive, diplomatic, or neutral.

- **Stylistic Adjustments:** Both English and Vietnamese news differentiate between formal and casual synonyms, depending on the audience and context.
- **Euphemisms for Sensitive Topics:** Political reporting in both languages employs euphemisms to soften controversial discussions or make policies appear more palatable.
- **Phraseological Synonyms:** Established expressions reinforce political messaging and ensure consistency in media narratives.
- **Semantic Precision:** Both languages favor semantic synonyms that help refine meaning, emphasizing subtle differences in power, governance, or policy decisions.

3.2.2. Differences

- English:
 - **Formality & Professionalism:** English political reporting tends to favor more formal synonyms to convey authority, credibility, and professionalism. Official statements often use complex or abstract words to reinforce institutional legitimacy.
 - **Idiomatic & Figurative Language:** English political discourse frequently employs idiomatic expressions and figurative synonyms to frame narratives metaphorically. These synonyms create symbolic meanings rather than direct descriptions.
 - **Consistency Across Variants:** Synonyms in English political reporting remain relatively stable across dialects, with minor differences between American and British English. The variations mainly reflect regional preferences rather than distinct political framing.
 - **Abstract & Nuanced Shifts:** English synonyms often carry subtle distinctions in meaning that allow for nuanced shifts in interpretation, making them useful for indirect communication and media framing.

- Vietnamese:
 - **Clarity & Accessibility:** Vietnamese political reporting prioritizes clarity and accessibility, often using straightforward synonyms that enhance readability and ensure the intended message is immediately clear to the audience.
 - **Regional Variations:** Synonym usage in Vietnamese political news varies based on Northern, Central, and Southern dialects, with different word choices reflecting localized linguistic preferences and cultural interpretations.
 - **Direct & Descriptive Language:** Vietnamese political language favors synonyms that provide explicit descriptions rather than figurative or abstract meanings. This approach ensures political messaging remains concrete and relatable.
 - **Strong Contrast Between Formal & Informal Synonyms:** Vietnamese political discourse exhibits a stronger distinction between formal and informal synonyms, adapting word choices based on administrative vs. public communication styles.

3.3. Discussion

The study reveals significant linguistic strategies employed by media outlets to shape political discourse. By categorizing synonyms into absolute, semantic, stylistic, territorial, euphemistic, and phraseological synonyms, this study highlights the deliberate choices journalists and political communicators make when reporting on governance, policies, and political figures.

One of the most salient findings is the role of synonym selection in framing political narratives. In both English and Vietnamese, synonyms allow media outlets to adjust the tone, intensity, and implications of political messages. For example, the choice between "terminate" and "pause" in English influences whether policy changes appear as decisive and irreversible or temporary and strategic. Similarly, the distinction between "sáp nhập" (merge) and "gộp chung" (combine) in Vietnamese affects whether administrative restructuring is perceived

as a formal, methodical reform or a practical adjustment.

Furthermore, the study identifies cross-linguistic similarities in the use of synonyms, particularly in shaping political perceptions. Both English and Vietnamese political discourse rely on stylistic variations—where formal synonyms enhance credibility, while casual counterparts make political discourse more accessible to the general public. For instance, "executive power" versus "control over the government" in English, and "cuộc cách mạng" (revolution) versus "thay đổi lớn" (big change) in Vietnamese, illustrate how synonym choice reflects audience targeting and ideological alignment.

Despite these similarities, key differences exist between synonym usage in English and Vietnamese political news. English political reporting often employs idiomatic and figurative synonyms, such as "stirring the pot" versus "causing a scene," to imply intentional political disruption or unexpected reactions. In contrast, Vietnamese political news prioritizes direct and descriptive synonyms, such as "tình giản" (simplified) versus "bót rườm rà" (less complicated), ensuring clarity and relatability. Additionally, Vietnamese political discourse exhibits regional variations, with synonyms shifting based on Northern, Central, or Southern dialects, whereas English synonym usage remains largely uniform across British and American variations.

Overall, the findings confirm that synonyms are not merely linguistic alternatives but powerful rhetorical tools that shape political discourse. They enable media outlets and political figures to frame political events strategically, either reinforcing or mitigating ideological positions, influencing public perception, and guiding political interpretations.

Chapter IV: Conclusion

4.1 Summary of Findings

This study has examined the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news, focusing on their linguistic functions, contextual applications, and impact on political communication. Through an analysis of absolute, semantic, stylistic, territorial, euphemistic, and phraseological synonyms, this research has demonstrated how political discourse is strategically shaped through word choice.

One of the key findings is that synonym usage plays a crucial role in framing political narratives and influencing public perception. The selection of synonyms can alter the tone, intensity, and implications of political messaging, allowing media outlets and politicians to shape interpretations of events and policies.

Additionally, the comparative analysis has highlighted cross-linguistic similarities and differences. Both English and Vietnamese political news rely on synonyms to adjust tone, create persuasive effects, and manage political sensitivity. However, while English political reporting often employs idiomatic and abstract synonyms, Vietnamese political communication favors clarity, accessibility, and regional linguistic adaptability. Furthermore, the study underscores the regional variations in Vietnamese synonyms, with notable differences across Northern, Central, and Southern dialects, whereas English political synonyms remain relatively stable across British and American variations.

Overall, these findings confirm that synonyms are powerful rhetorical tools that go beyond basic linguistic substitution. They serve as mechanisms for persuasion, ideological framing, and strategic communication, demonstrating that synonym selection is not merely a linguistic choice but a deliberate tactic in political discourse.

4.2. Implications for Political Communication

The study's findings carry significant implications for political communication, journalism, and media literacy, affecting how political messages are framed, perceived, and understood.

4.2.1 Framing Political Narratives

- One of the most profound implications of synonym usage is its ability to frame political narratives. The choice of words influences whether a political event is perceived as urgent, controversial, or routine. For example, describing a governmental restructuring as "streamlining" instead of "cutting" conveys efficiency rather than reduction, shaping public attitudes toward the reform positively.
- Additionally, phraseological synonyms play a crucial role in emphasizing or downplaying political actions. In English, calling a leader "strong-handed" instead of "autocratic" shifts the narrative from authoritarianism to decisiveness. In Vietnamese, choosing "gộp chung" over "sáp nhập" makes territorial reforms seem more organic rather than imposed. These linguistic strategies show that media outlets and politicians carefully craft their narratives using synonyms to generate specific reactions from the public.

4.2.2 Persuasion and Public Perception

- Synonyms function as persuasive tools in political rhetoric, especially when discussing controversial policies or leadership decisions. By selecting euphemistic synonyms, media outlets and politicians can reduce the perceived severity of certain policies or justify governance actions. For instance, referring to workforce layoffs as "staff reduction" rather than "job cuts" can soften the impact of economic measures.
- Stylistic synonyms further illustrate the persuasive function of language in political discourse. Choosing formal synonyms enhances credibility, while casual synonyms make political discussions more approachable. In English, formal discussions on governance use "constitutional principles", whereas casual conversations may reference "legal rules". In Vietnamese, "kết luận" (conclusion) presents finality, whereas "ý kiến" (opinion) allows for flexibility and dialogue. This suggests that political communicators carefully select their words to either strengthen their authority or engage audiences in debate.

4.2.3 Cross-Cultural Political Communication

- The comparative analysis between English and Vietnamese synonym usage offers valuable insights into cross-cultural political communication. While English political discourse emphasizes abstract and idiomatic expressions, Vietnamese political communication prioritizes clarity and direct messaging. However, both languages share universal principles of political framing, such as using territorial synonyms to reflect regional linguistic preferences or phraseological synonyms to subtly convey political intent.
- Understanding these differences can enhance cross-cultural political discussions, aiding translators, journalists, and international policymakers
- in crafting messages that resonate across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Furthermore, the study highlights the need for media literacy, ensuring that audiences critically interpret political news and recognize how word choices influence narratives.

4.3. Limitations of the Study

While this research provides valuable insights into synonym usage in English and Vietnamese political news, several limitations must be acknowledged:

- **Scope Constraints** – The study primarily focuses on media reporting and does not extend to political speeches, debates, or propaganda. Future research could explore how synonyms function in different types of political discourse, including campaign rhetoric and diplomatic communications.
- **Selection Bias in Source Material** – Although efforts were made to include diverse media outlets, editorial biases inevitably shape synonym selection in political news. Future studies should analyze synonym usage across politically neutral and partisan sources to determine how ideological alignment influences word choice.
- **Regional Variations in Vietnamese Synonyms** – Given the dialectal differences in Vietnamese, further research could examine how synonyms

vary between Northern, Central, and Southern Vietnamese political news, addressing regional linguistic influences.

- Impact Assessment – While this study identifies synonymic patterns, it does not measure their actual impact on public perception. Future research could employ survey methodologies or experimental designs to assess how audiences react to different synonym choices in political news.

4.4 Conclusion

The primary aim of this study was to examine the use of synonyms in English and Vietnamese political news to uncover linguistic strategies, cultural influences, and their role in shaping political narratives and public perception. By categorizing synonyms into absolute, semantic, stylistic, territorial, euphemistic, and phraseological groups, the research highlights how lexical choices influence media framing and audience interpretation.

This thesis comprises five chapters. Chapter I serves as the introduction, presenting the rationale, objectives, and scope of the study, along with the research questions and methodology.

Chapter II provides the theoretical foundation by defining key concepts related to synonyms and their classifications. It also reviews relevant previous studies, both in English and Vietnamese contexts, to establish the significance of synonym usage in political discourse.

Chapter III explores the application of synonyms in political news across English and Vietnamese media. By analyzing commonly used synonyms, this chapter identifies patterns and variations in lexical choices, highlighting their impact on framing political events. Moreover, this chapter discusses the findings of the research, offering an in-depth interpretation of how synonyms function as rhetorical tools in media and political communication. The analysis reveals notable similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese political discourse.

Finally, Chapter IV summarizes the main findings, acknowledges the limitations of the study, and discusses the implications for political communication. This study contributes to the broader understanding of linguistic strategies in political communication, offering insights for journalists, translators, and media analysts interested in cross-cultural political discourse.

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