BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG
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KHÓA LUẬN TỔT NGHIỆP

NGÀNH: TIẾNG ANH

HẢI PHONG – 2010
GRADUATION PAPER

A STUDY ON PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

By:
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Class:
NA1002

Supervisor:
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HAI PHONG – 2010
BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỞNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG
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Nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp

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

3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.
CÂN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN ĐỀ TÀI

Người hướng dẫn thứ nhất:
Họ và tên:...................................................................................................................
Học hàm, học vị:...........................................................................................................
Cơ quan công tác:........................................................................................................
Nội dung hướng dẫn:....................................................................................................

Người hướng dẫn thứ hai:
Họ và tên:..................................................................................................................
Học hàm, học vị:.............................................................................................................
Cơ quan công tác:........................................................................................................
Nội dung hướng dẫn:....................................................................................................

Đề tài tốt nghiệp được giao ngày 12 tháng 04 năm 2010
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Đã nhận nhiệm vụ ĐTTN
Sinh viên
Đã giao nhiệm vụ ĐTTN
Người hướng dẫn

Hải Phòng, ngày tháng năm 2010
HIỆU TRƯỞNG

GS.TS.NGƯT Trần Hữu Nghị
PHẦN NHẬN XÉT TÔM TÁT CỦA CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN

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

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

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Hải Phòng, ngày..... tháng..... năm 2010
Cán bộ hướng dẫn
( hộ tên và chữ ký)
NHẬN XÉT ĐÁNH GIÁ
CỦA NGƯỜI CHÁM PHÂN BIỆN ĐỂ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP

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

2. Cho điểm của người chấm phân biên:

   (Diểm ghi bằng số và chữ)

Ngày......... tháng......... năm 2010

Người chấm phân biên
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Hai Phong, July 2010

Truong Thi Bich Ngoc
## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adj</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct object</td>
<td>Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect object</td>
<td>Oi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noun</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preposition</td>
<td>Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronoun</td>
<td>Pro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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PART I
INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

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

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

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

This study is aimed at:

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

3. Methods of the study

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

4. Scope of the study

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

- The definition of pronouns
- The classification of pronouns
- The use of pronouns, especially personal pronouns
- Some difficulties and factors effecting on translation of learners while using personal pronouns
5. Design of the study

This study is composed of 3 parts:

- Part 1 is introduction which consists of rationale, aims, methods, scope and design of the study.

- Part 2 is the development- the main part of this paper which is divided into three chapters:
  - Chapter one is theoretical background of pronouns with definition, classification, uses.
  - Chapter two shows detailed explanation of personal pronouns.
  - Chapter three indicates personal pronouns in comparison between English and Vietnamese.

- Part 3 is conclusion which summarizes what have been given in previous parts.
PART II
DEVELOPMENT
CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. The Definition of pronouns
   
   Pronouns are form such as: *it, someone, these, they, them* …… used instead of nouns or noun phrases.

   
   [ ] Lisa likes cats. She has four cats.

   (5 ; 24)

   I like Tony. I know him well.

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

   (2 ; 131)

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

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

   antecedent Pro

   (6 ; 9)

2. The classification of pronouns

   2.1. *Personal pronouns*

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

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

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

  N  Pro=S

  This is my father. He is a teacher.

  N  Pro=S

  This is my mother. She is a lawyer.

  N  Pro=S

  I have a dog. It is called Lucky.

  N  Pro=S

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

  I am standing on my head. Look at me.

  Pro=O

  My mother is kind. Everybody likes her.

  Pro=O

  Lisa, I told you to tidy your bed.

  Pro=O

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

  Pro=O

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

  Pro=O

2.2. Possessive pronouns

  A pronoun used to show possession is called a possessive pronoun. The form of possessive pronouns “mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs” indicates a relationship to a person or thing.
It is my book.  
(In this example, we can substitute “my book” for the possessive pronoun “mine” => It is mine.)

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

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

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

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

- Possessive pronouns are very similar to possessive adjectives.

You can borrow my book as long as you remember that it is not yours.

 Possessive Pro

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

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

When you drive to Manitoba, will you take your car or theirs?

 Possessive adj Pro

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

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

(13)

2.3. Demonstrative pronouns

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

- Demonstrative pronouns can be singular or plural:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This</td>
<td></td>
<td>These</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That</td>
<td></td>
<td>Those</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4 ; 49)

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

- In this example, “this” can refer to an object or situation close in space or in time to the speaker.
- In this example, “that” can refer to an object or situation farther in space or in time to the speaker.
- These are unbelievable.

(5 ; 27)
In this example, “These” can refer to some objects close in space or in time to the speaker.

Those are unbelievable.

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

(13)

You take these bags and I will take those.

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

(16)

2.4. Indefinite pronouns

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

Everybody is welcome at the meeting.

Few choose to live in the arid desert.

(5 ; 28)

I said nothing.

The house is empty. There is nobody living there.

(8 ; 266)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indefinite pronouns</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anybody/anyone</strong></td>
<td>No matter what person</td>
<td>Can anyone answer this question?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anything</strong></td>
<td>No matter what thing</td>
<td>The doctor needs to know if you have eaten anything in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Each</strong></td>
<td>Every one of two or more people or things, seem separately</td>
<td>Each has his own thoughts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Everybody / Everyone</strong></td>
<td>All people</td>
<td>We can start the meeting because everybody has arrived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Everything</strong></td>
<td>All things</td>
<td>They have no house or possessions. They lost everything in the earthquake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nobody/no one</strong></td>
<td>No person</td>
<td>I phoned many times but nobody answered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nothing</strong></td>
<td>No single thing, not anything</td>
<td>If you do not know the answer it is best to say nothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Somebody/someone</strong></td>
<td>An unspecified or unknown person</td>
<td>Clearly somebody murdered him. It was not suicide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Something</strong></td>
<td>An unspecified or unknown thing</td>
<td>Listen! I just heard something. What could it be?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Many</strong></td>
<td>A large number of people or things</td>
<td>Many have come already.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong></td>
<td>The whole quantity of something or of some</td>
<td>All is forgiven. All have arrived.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes:
+ There is no noticeable difference in meaning and use between “-one” form and “-body” forms. They refer to both male(s) and female(s).
+ These compounds: someone, anything…. (except no one) are normally written as one word.

- Uses of “some/any/no/every” compounds.
  - Some: Some compounds are used in:
    → the affirmative:
      I met someone you know last night.
    → questions expecting “yes”:
      Was there something you wanted?
    → offers and requests:
      Would you like something to drink?

- Any: Any compounds are used:
  → in negative statements:
    There is not anyone who can help you.
  → in questions when we are doubtful about the answer:
    Is there anyone here who is a doctor?

- No: no compounds are used in affirmative statements.
  There is no one here at the moment.
  (= There is not anyone…….)
2.5. Reflexive pronouns

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

- Be careful or you will cut yourself.

- It is our own fault. We blame ourselves.
  If you want more to eat, help yourselves.

- When a mixture of persons is involved, the reflexive forms to a 1st person or, if there is no 1st person, to a 2nd person:
  You, John, I must not deceive ourselves.
  You and John must not deceive yourselves.

- The indefinite one has its own reflexive as in
  “One mustn’t fool oneself.”
  But other indefinites use himself or themselves.
  “No one must fool himself.”

- Reflexive pronouns are used in three main situations:
  - Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and object are the same.

  I hurt myself.
  S      Pro=O
  He cut himself.
  S      Pro=O
- They can be used as objects of ordinary verbs:

  The boss gave himself a rise. (= gave a rise to himself)

  \[ V \quad Pro=O \]

  (1 ; 83)

- They are used as objects of prepositions:

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

  Lucy looks very pleased with herself.

  \[ Prep \quad Pro=O \]

  Look after yourself!

  \[ Prep \quad Pro=O \]

  (1 ; 83)

  I bought a present for myself.

  \[ Prep \quad Pro=O \]

  That man is talking to himself.

  \[ Prep \quad Pro=O \]

  (15)

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

  We gave ourselves up.

  We pulled ourselves out (of the water).

  (1 ; 83)

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

  You heard the explosion yourself.

  (1 ; 84)

  I will do it myself.

  They ate all the food themselves.

  (15)

2.6. Interrogative pronouns
The words "who, whose, what, which and whom" are interrogative pronouns. They are used to ask questions. In addition, these pronouns may take the suffixes "-ever".

Who used all my paper?
What is your brother’s name?

Which books do you like best?

Who used all my paper?
What is your brother’s name?
Which books do you like best?

Who: can be used to ask about people:

- As subject of a verb:

Who broke the window?
Pro=S

Who wrote it?
Pro=S

Who are you?
Pro=S

- As object of a verb or preposition:

Who are you inviting to your party?
Pro=O

Who is Mom talking to?
Pro=O

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

Whom did the president criticize?
Whom did you tell?
If you put the preposition before interrogative pronoun, you must “whom”:

[]

- **Whom/Who**: Is Mom talking to?
- **To whom**: Is Mom talking?

(5 ; 29)

- **For whom**: Will you vote?

(13)

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

[]

- **What**: Is your name?
  - **Pro=S**
  - **What**: Do you want?
  - **Pro=O**

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

[]

- **Which**: Came first?
  - **Pro=S**
  - **Which**: Will the doctors see first?
  - **Pro=O**

(14)

- **Which girls**: Do you like best?
  - **Pro=O**

(9 ; 106)

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

[]

- **Whose**: Is it? => It is mine.

(3 ; 56)

- **Whose car**: Did you drive? => Tom’s car.

(13)

- **Whoever, Whatever, Whichever**: When we add “-ever”, we use it for emphasis, often to show confusion or surprise.
Whoever would want to do such a nasty thing? Whatever did he say to make her cry like that? They are all fantastic! Whichever will you choose?

2.7. Relative pronouns

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

- Relative pronouns can be used as subjects:

  People **who**/**that** go to university are not necessarily more intelligent than people who do not.

- Relative pronouns can be used as objects:

  It was her car **which**/**that** Philip crashed into.

  He is the man **who**/**whom**/**that** I met.
This is the pan which/that I boiled the milk in.
Pro(s)=O
(1 ; 17)

They are the women who/whom/that I met on holiday.
Pro(s)=O
(1 ; 19)

Have you found the keys that you lost?
Pronoun=O
(8 ; 287)

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

We arranged to meet at a place whose location was to be kept secret.
Pro=S
(10 ; 185)

What is the name of the man whose car you borrowed?
Pro=O
(8 ; 290)

The millionaire whose son ran away from home a week ago has made a public appeal.
Pro=S
(1 ; 19)

He is the man whose car was stolen.
Pro=S
(1 ; 17)

It was an agreement the details of which could not be altered.
Pro=S
(1 ; 19)

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

- John likes Mary.
- Mary likes John
- ⇒ John and Mary like each other.

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

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

Tom and Ann stood in the front of the mirror and looked at themselves.
  (= Tom looked at Tom; Ann looked at Ann.)
Tom and Ann stood in the front of the mirror and looked at each other.
  (= Tom looked at Ann; Ann looked at Tom.)
CHAPTER 2 : PERSONAL PRONOUNS

1. The definition and forms of personal pronouns

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

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

(3 ; 40)

- Grammar person:
  - Person speaking.
  - Person spoken to.
  - Person or thing spoken about.

- Number:
  - Singular pronoun.
  - Plural pronoun.

- Gender:
  - Masculine pronoun.
  - Feminine pronoun.
  - Neuter pronoun.

(3 ; 41)

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

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

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

(3 ; 42)
Third person pronoun is used in place of person(s) or thing(s) spoken about.

He loves hamburgers.
They visit the pool.
It is big.

2. The classification of personal pronouns

2.1. The classification of personal pronouns by number

- Personal pronouns show either singular or plural number.
  - Singular refers to one person or thing: I, you, he, she, it
  - Plural refers to more than one person or thing: we, you, they

John is here. He cannot stay long.
Singular

Look at those cows! They never stop eating.
Plural

2.2. The classification of personal pronouns by gender

- Three genders differentiate the third-person singular pronouns “he, she, it”.
  - Masculine pronoun: “he”
  - Feminine pronoun: “she”
Feminine nouns:
Mrs. Miller
Woman
Mother => replace each noun with pronoun “she”
Actress
Cow
- Neuter pronoun: “It”

Neuter nouns
Locker
Ball => replace each noun with pronoun “It”
Towel
Lotion

2.3. The classification of personal pronouns by grammar person

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

I love America.
Person speaking
You swim today.
Person spoken to
She is here. (Andy is talking about Kelly)
Person spoken about

2.4. The classification of personal pronouns by usage

2.4.1. Subject personal pronouns

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

Lisa likes cats. She has four cats.
In the first sentence, the proper noun Lisa is the subject of the verb likes.
In the second sentence, the pronoun she is the subject of the verb has.

My name is Michael. I am fourteen.
My father works hard. He works in a factory.
My sister is older than me. She is twelve.
Our dog is very naughty. It likes to chase cats.
Bob, You are a bad dog.
David and I are playing football. We like sports.
Jim and Jeff are my brothers. They are older than I am.

Subjective pronouns come before a verb in statements. They are used when the person or thing referred to can be identified by both the speaker and the hearer:

John did not find us in so he left a message.

“\textasciitilde I, you, he, she, it, we, they” are called subjective pronoun.
a) The first person singular “\textasciitilde I”: The speaker or writer uses “\textasciitilde I” when referring to himself or herself. This is the only personal pronoun which is always spelt with a capital letter. (Note that “\textasciitilde I” is written as a capital letter whether it is at the beginning of a sentence or not.)

I think, therefore I am. John told me I need not wait.

In polite usage it is usual to avoid mentioning yourself first.)

Jane and I have already eaten.

b) The second person singular and plural “\textasciitilde You”: 
We use this when we address another person, or two or more people.

[] Are **you** ready, **Jill**?

S ( **you** replaces for **Jill** )

(1 ; 74)

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

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

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

S

(Pronoun **He** replaces for **David**)  

(1 ; 74)

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

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

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

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

(1 ; 74)

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

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

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

S (pronoun **It** replaces for a thing)

Loyalty must be earned. **It** cannot be bought.

S (pronoun **It** replaces for a quality)

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

S( **It** replaces for an event)

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

S (pronoun **It** replaces for a place)

(1 ; 74)

- We can use **It** to identify people:

[] There is a knock at the door. Who is **it**? – **It** is the postman.
Who is that?- It is our new next door neighbour, Mr Smith.

S(pronoun It replaces for Mr.Smith)

- We also use It when we do not know the sex of a baby or child:
  It is a lovely baby. Is it a boy or a girl?
- We refer to an animal as It when the sex is not known or not worth identifying:
  I am fed up with that dog of yours. It never stops barking.

(1 ; 74)

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

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

| It takes (us) half an hour to get to work. |

- “*It*” as a “preparatory subject”:

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

  1. *It* is pleasant to lie in the sun.
     - S
     - (To lie in the sun is pleasant.)
     - *It* is pleasant lying in the sun.
     - S
     - (Lying in the sun is pleasant.)
     - *It* is a shame that Tom is not here.
     - S
     - (That Tom is not here is a shame.)
     - *It* does not matter when we arrive.
     - S
     - (When we arrive does not matter.)

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

  *It* as a preparatory subject often combines with:

  **Adj**: difficult, easy, important, vital:

  - *It* is easy (for me) to make mistakes.

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

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

  **V**: appear, happen, look, seem:

  - *It* appears that he forgot to sign the letter.

  - *It* now looks certain that the fire was caused by a cigarette end.
The use of “It” in “cleft sentences”:
We can begin sentences with *It* is or *It* was + *S* + *that* or *who(m)*. If we wish to emphasize the word or phrase that follows. Sentences formed in this way are called cleft sentences because a simple sentence is split up (cleft) into two clauses using the *It*-construction:

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

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

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

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

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

- *We* can include the listener or not:
  Let’s go, shall we? (including the listener)
  We are staying here. What about you? (not including the listener)
- *We* is often used to mean “anyone/everyone”, for example
  in newspaper:
  We should applaud the government’s efforts to create more jobs.
- *We* is used in the same way in general statements:
  We all fear the unknown.

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

- *They* can stand for persons, animals or things already mentioned:
  John and Susan phoned. They are coming round this evening.
  Look at those cows! They never stop eating.
  Our curtains look dirty. They need a good wash.

- *They* can be used in general sentences to mean *people*:
  They say (or people say) oil prices will be going up soon.
- *They* is also commonly used to refer to *the authorities*:
They are putting up oil prices again soon.

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

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

(1 ; 75)

2.4.2. **Object personal pronouns**

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

Lisa likes cats. She likes to stroke them.

V  O

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

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

I am doing my homework. Dad is helping me.

V  O

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

V  O

Where is John? I need to speak to him.

V  O

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

V  O

The car is very dirty. Mom is cleaning it.

V  O

Uncle Harry called Mary to ask her a question.

V  O

My chocolates are all gone. Someone has eaten them.

V  O

(5 ; 25)

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

- **Direct objects** : Have you met Marilyn? I have never met her.
- **Indirect objects**: If you see *Jim*, give *him* my regards.

  Oi

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

  Prep O

(1 ; 75)

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

  Who is it? – It is *me/him/her*.

(1 ; 75)

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

  Who wants a ride on my bike? – *Me/Not me*

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

  You can tell him. – *Me* tell him? Not likely!

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

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

(1 ; 75)
CHAPTER 3: PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN COMPARISON BETWEEN IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

1. Comparison in definition
- Both English personal pronouns and Vietnamese personal pronouns are used to address.
- English and Vietnamese personal pronouns show either singular or plural number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Pronouns</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The first person singular</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Tôi, tao, tớ, mình……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first person plural</td>
<td>We</td>
<td>Chúng tôi, chúng ta, chúng tớ, bọn mình……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The second person singular</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>Mày, cậu……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The second person plural</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>Chúng mày, các cậu……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The third person singular</td>
<td>She, he, it</td>
<td>Nó, y, hắn……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The third person plural</td>
<td>They</td>
<td>Họ, chúng nó……</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Comparision in usage**

- Both English and Vietnamese pronouns can be subject or object in a sentence.
  - a. **Personal pronoun as a subject**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Tôi” : Vietnamese words denoting the first personal pronoun are plentiful: “tôi, ta, mình, tao, trấm…”</td>
<td>“I” : When we talk about ourselves, we only have personal pronoun “I”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tôi là bác sĩ.</td>
<td>I am a doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con đang học tiếng anh.</td>
<td>I am learning English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con yêu mẹ.</td>
<td>I love you, mummy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tôi thích chơi với bạn.</td>
<td>I like to play with you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chị thích chơi với em.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Bạn”: is used the same as “you” in English but there is difference between speaking to one person and speaking</td>
<td>“You” : is used to address another person, or two or more persons. There is not the difference between speaking to one person and speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>to many persons</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anh là người bạn tốt nhất của tôi .</td>
<td>You are my best friend .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(one person)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Các cậu có thể chạy nhanh hơn tôi .</td>
<td>You can run faster than me .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(two or more person)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cậu phải làm bài tập về nhà .</td>
<td>You have to do your homework .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con cần phải về nhà trước 8 giờ tối</td>
<td>You need to go home before 8 p.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>“anh ấy/chị ấy/nó”</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th><strong>“He/she/it”</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chị ấy là bạn tôi .</td>
<td>She is my friend .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anh ấy là bạn tôi .</td>
<td>He is my friend .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(male)</td>
<td>S(male)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Em gái tôi)nó học rất giỏi tiếng anh.</td>
<td>She is very good at learning English.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Em trai tôi)nó rất cao .</td>
<td>He is very tall .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td>S(female)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nó là cái bút của tớ .</td>
<td>It is my pen .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S(thing)</td>
<td>S(thing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Chúng tôi /chúng ta/chúng cháu/ chúng tớ .....”</td>
<td>“We”: is used to talk about yourself and others person .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chúng tôi là người Việt Nam .</td>
<td>We are Vietnamese .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chúng cháu là sinh viên .</td>
<td>We are students .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chúng ta là nhà vô địch .</td>
<td>We are the champions .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chúng tớ có thể làm tất cả .</td>
<td>We can do everything .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Họ”</td>
<td>“They”: is used to talk about a group of people or thing without differentiating male or female .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Họ là những cầu thủ giỏi .</td>
<td>They are good player .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Họ đang hát karaoke .</td>
<td>They are singing karaoke .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Những quyển sách này là của tớ .</td>
<td>They are my books .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. Personal pronoun as an object.

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

[] I will call for you.

V O

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

[] Chị ấy đưa tớ quyển sách.

V O

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject personal pronouns</th>
<th>Object personal pronouns</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>Tôi/ tớ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>Cậu/  ỷ/các cậu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>Him</td>
<td>Anh ấy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>Her</td>
<td>Chị ỷ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It</td>
<td>It</td>
<td>Nó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>Us</td>
<td>Chúng tôi/ Chúng tớ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>Them</td>
<td>Họ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In English, object personal pronouns can change forms depending on thing or people spoken to. But in Vietnamese, object personal pronouns do not change in comparison with subject personal pronouns.

We can compare the following sentences:

**In Vietnamese:**

\[
\text{Hôm qua, tôi gọi điện cho chị ấy.} \\
S \quad O
\]

\[
\text{Hôm qua, chị ấy gọi điện cho tôi.} \\
S \quad O
\]

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

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

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

**In English**: The above sentences will be translated into English as follows:

\[
\text{Yesterday, I called her.} \quad (\text{hôm qua, tôi gọi điện cho chị ấy}) \\
S \quad O
\]

\[
\text{Yesterday, she called me.} \quad (\text{hôm qua, chị ấy gọi điện cho tôi}) \\
S \quad O
\]

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

3. Some factors effecting on translating personal pronouns into Vietnamese

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

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

The old man asked a little boy:
“What are you doing?” – “I am waiting for my mother.”

=> In Vietnamese:
“Cháu đang làm gì vậy?” – “Cháu đang đợi mẹ cháu .”

3.2. The factor of social status
Social status, class distinction, differences between the rich and the poor also have great influences on translation.

Extract from “An out and out bungler”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An out-and-out bungler</td>
<td>Kế hậu đậu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>……The bungling official saw these posters and scolded his subordinates. “Outside there are official notices everywhere, saying there are many bungler throughout the county. Why are not you out there them?” He said</td>
<td>……Ông quan nhìn thấy những câu thơ đó và chửi mắng những lính hầu của mình. “Ngoài kia đâu đâu cũng có những tờ giấy viết những câu thơ nói về những tên hậu đậu trong huyện. Tại sao chúng bày không ra bắt những tên...”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to one of his messengers. “I will give you three days to arrest at least three bunglers. If you are one short, I will have no mercy!”

…..Hearing the bungling official’s muddled talk the messenger knelt down and reported, “I have found the third bungler.”


“When the next county official arrives, I will fetch him at once.” answered the messenger.

We can see that in the extracts above:

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

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

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

Extract from the story “Jane Eyre”:

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

Jane: “You want to marry me? I cried, almost beginning to believe him. But I have no friends, no money, no family.”
Rochester: “Tôi yêu em! Em, một người con gái nhỏ bé, nghèo và giản dị. Tôi muốn hỏi em!”


(7 : 196)

=> Generally, when two people in love, male person use the word “Anh” and female person use the word “Em”. So the following sentence:
“I love you” is often translated “Anh yêu em”
“You want to marry me?” is translated “Anh muốn cưới em?”

But in the story “Jane Eyre”: Jane is a young girl, Rochester is a rich man and is about twenty years older than her. There are a big gap between the rich and the poor, class distinction between them. So, in the conservation above
“I love you” is translated “Tôi yêu em”
“You want to marry me?” is translated “Ông muốn cưới em?”

3.3. The factor of kinship

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

[]

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nothing in the head</td>
<td>Không có gì trong đầu .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A scholar was preparing to take the civil examinations. His wife was very puzzled by his constant worrying . -“Look at you, you worthless wretch,” she said . “You probably think that it’s more difficult for a man to write an...</td>
<td>Một anh học trò sắp sửa trải qua kỳ thi. Vợ anh ta rất lúng túng . Người vợ nói lời an ủi khi thấy anh ta lo lắng triền miên : - “Nhìn mình kia, mình trong thật khó khăn. Chắc là mình nghĩ rằng đàn ông viết văn khó hơn...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is easy for you women to give birth to children,” the scholar sighed.

-“How is that?” She asked.

-“You can bear children easily because you carry the child in your stomach,” the scholar said. “But I have nothing in my head, so how do you expect me to think of something to write?”

In this example, the address forms of this couple is “Minh – Tôi”

-We can see that pronouns “I and me” are translated “Tôi” to refer to husband.
- Pronoun “You” is translated “Mình” but “Mình” refers to both husband and wife:

  “Look at you, you worthless wretch,”

=>“Nhìn mình kia, mình trông thật khổ khổ,”

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

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

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

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

In parents – children relationship: There are a lot of address forms between parents and children, such as: “Bố/ mẹ – con”, “Ba/ má – con”, “thầy/tia/u/bàm – con” ….
The bride, upon her engagement, went to her mother and said, “I have found a man just like father!”

Her mother replied: “So what do you want from me, sympathy?”

Cô dâu trong buổi lễ định hôn bước đến chỗ bà mẹ: “Con đã tìm được một người đàn ông giống y như bố.

“Thế giờ con cần gì ở mẹ đây? sự thông cảm chắc?”

- In this example, the address form is “Mẹ - Con”.
- We can see that pronoun “I” and “You” are translated “Con”:
  “I have found a man just like father.” : In this sentence, pronoun “I” is translated “Con” because it refers to the bride in this conservation. She is person speaking.
  “What do you want from me?” : In this sentence, pronoun “you” is translated “Con” because it also refers to the bride. The bride is listener and her mother is person speaking. And pronoun “me” is translated “Mẹ”.

3.4. The factor of attitude of person speaking and listener

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

In spousal relationship:
+When they are happy and they love one another:
+When they are angry:
In English: “Where are you? What are you doing?”

In Vietnamese:
“Em ở đâu thế? Em đang làm gì vậy?” (happy)
“Cô đang ở đâu? Cô đang làm gì?” (angry)

In friendship:
+ Normally, when two friends talk to each other, they use address forms “Bạn - tớ /cậu - tớ/cậu - mình”
+ When they are angry, they will use “mày – tao”

In English: “What do you want?”
In Vietnamese: “Cậu muốn/cần gì?” (normal)
“Mày muốn /thích gì?” (angry)

When speaking to a thief, everyone often hates and disdains him.
“He is a liar, a thief. We need to be vigilant with him.”
=> “Hắn ta là kẻ dối trá, một tên trộm cắp. Chúng ta cần cảnh giác với hắn.”

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

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

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