

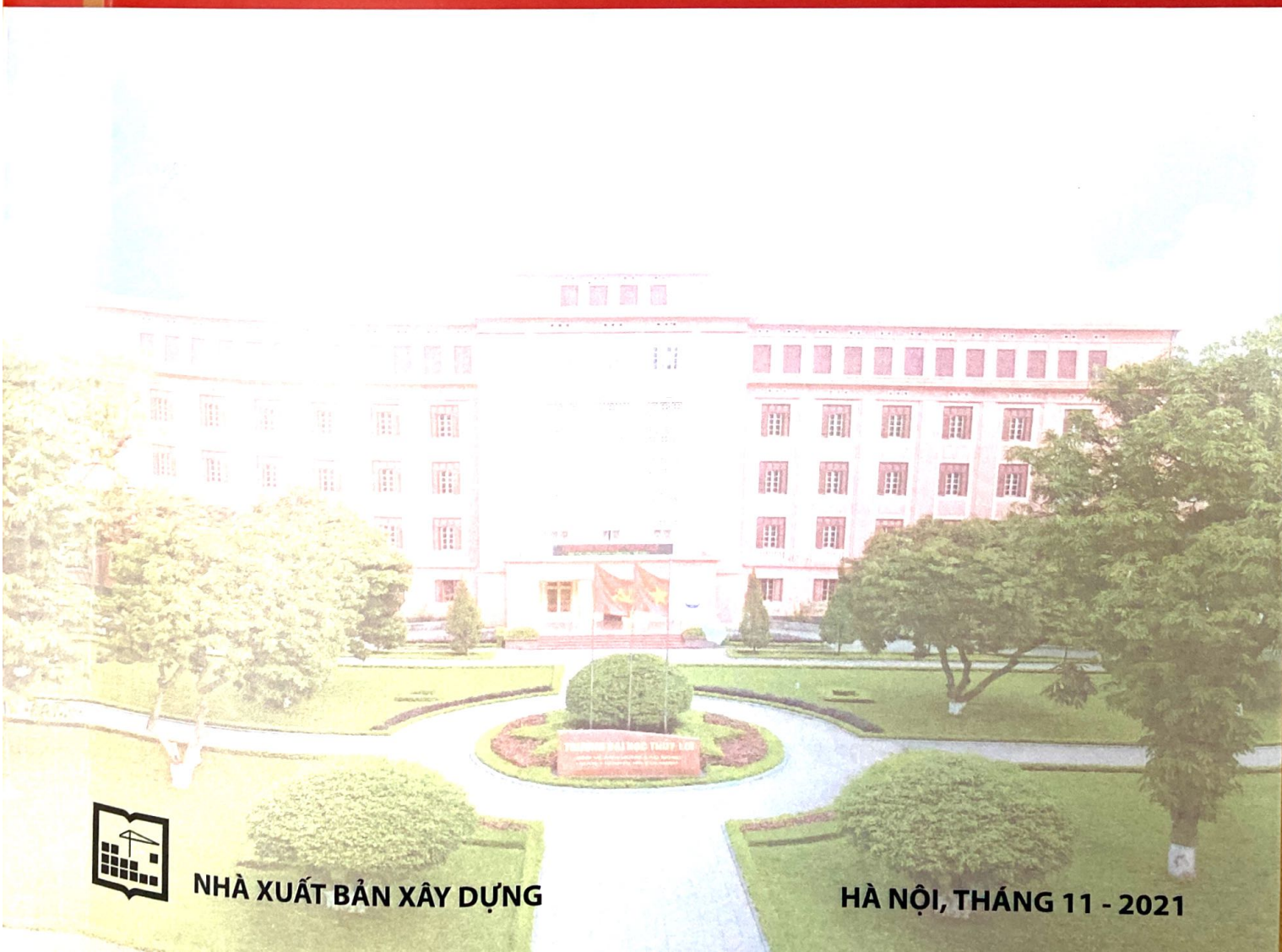


BỘ NÔNG NGHIỆP VÀ PHÁT TRIỂN NÔNG THÔN
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC THỦY LỢI

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ENGLISH-VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF NOMINALIZATION IN GEOLOGICAL TEXTS BY TRANSPOSITION PROCEDURE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Technical translation from English into Vietnamese in general and translation of nominalization in geological texts in particular often cause many difficulties to translators. Through a study on theories of translation methods and procedures, together with an investigation into both English geological texts and their equivalent Vietnamese ones, the author managed to find out appropriate translation procedures to deal with English - Vietnamese translation of nominalization in geological documents.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In general, translation is a process in which the translator applies certain translation methods/procedures to formulate equivalence for the purpose of transferring elements of meaning from the source language (SL) to target language (TL) (Dagmara Płońska, 2014). While translation methods deal with whole texts, translation procedures are applied for sentences or smaller units of language (Newmark, 1988).

Translation methods can be divided into 02 main groups: *direct/literal* translation which includes 03 procedures, namely, borrowing, calque, and literal translation and *indirect/oblique* translation that consists of such 04 procedures as transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation (Vinay và Darbelnet, 1995, as cited in Dagmara Płońska, 2014).

Peter Newmark (1988, as cited in Sinaga, 2015) defined transposition as a procedure involving a change in the grammar or part of speech from SL to TL, for instance, (i) change from singular to plural, (ii) the change required when a specific SL structure does not exist in the TL, (iii) change of an SL verb to a TL noun, change of an SL noun group to a TL verb and so forth. In other words, transposition also means the replacing of one word-class by another without changing the meaning of the message. For instance, noun phrases in the sentence "With *good nutrition, medical care, education and skill training*, many children with mental or physical defects can move to lead normal lives" can be translated by Vietnamese verb phrases as "Do được ăn uống đầy đủ, chăm sóc sức khoẻ đều đặn và được giáo dục, đào tạo các kỹ năng tốt, nhiều trẻ em khuyết tật có thể trở về hoà nhập với cuộc sống bình thường."

Nominalisation is a common phenomenon in English usage. Through nominalisation, processes (i.e. verbs) and properties (i.e. adjectives) are re-constructed metaphorically as nouns, enabling an informationally dense discourse (Halliday, 2004). Besides, nominalisation is regarded as the single most powerful resource for creating grammatical metaphor (Mingao Wei, 2019). Particularly, nominalization is one of the most noticeable grammatical characteristics of technical texts (Newmark, 1988), including geological documents, which often causes difficulties to translators. Therefore, English-Vietnamese

translation of nominalizations in geological texts was investigated in this study.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, 50 sentences with nominalization were extracted from an English geological textbook named "Applied Hydrogeology" by C.W. Fetter and 50 equivalent Vietnamese ones from the translated book "Địa chất Thủy văn ứng dụng" by experts and teachers at Water Resources University - Nguyễn Uyên, Phạm Thanh Hiền & Phạm Hữu Sỹ. These books are now being exploited by lecturers and students as study materials at Hanoi University of Mining and Geology and Water Resources University. The main methods of this descriptive and qualitative study were book observation and data analysis. These methods were aimed at analyzing and pinpointing suitable translation procedures used to translate nominalization in English geological texts into Vietnamese.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study results indicated that in investigated geological texts, nominalization (nouns or noun phrases) is widely used instead of verbs or verb phrases. Nominalization is considered one of the most popular expressive ways to ensure the objectivity and avoid the subjectivity of the writings since in this case the authors do not need to mention the doer/agent of the actions. That explains why nouns and noun phrases are frequently used in geological texts. It can be seen that in these English texts, nouns and noun phrases are used to create formality, clarity, and precision for the text.

The study results also showed that all English nominalizations or noun phrases are translated into Vietnamese with transposition procedure. Accordingly, in most cases (76 %) SL nominalizations are translated by TL verb phrases while the remaining 24% nominalizations are transferred by adequate TL noun phrases.

In addition, the study results indicated that the use of verb phrases and noun phrases in English and Vietnamese is also different. While English authors use mainly noun phrases (NPs) in their writings, Vietnamese translators prefer verb phrases (VPs). Accordingly, Vietnamese translators tend to turn NPs into VPs when translating NPs from English into Vietnamese with transposition procedure in which one word-class (NPs) is replaced with another (VPs). Up to 38 out of 50 examined sentences with nominalizations (equal to 76%) are translated into Vietnamese with transposition procedure by TL verb phrases like in the following sentences.

*Fresh-water heads can then be calculated and used for the **determination** of hydraulic gradients and flow directions.*

*Sau đó có thể xác định các cột nước ngọt và dùng **để xác định** gradient thủy lực và hướng dòng thấm.*

It can be seen that the nominalization "determination" in the above-mentioned example is translated into a Vietnamese verb phrase "xác định", instead of "sự/việc xác định".

Concerning 12 out of 50 remaining examined sentences with nominalizations (equal to 24%), noun phrases in SL are translated by TL noun phrases. Although translating SL nominalizations by TL noun phrases is less common than by TL verb phrases, this case needs considering to create a variety of grammar structures in TL. Remarkably, this tendency is normally applied in three different situations.

First, nominalizations tend to be translated by corresponding TL noun phrases in definition sentences, like the sentence defining **the force potential** as follows:

*The force potential is the driving impetus behind ground-water flow, and is equal to the product of hydraulic head and **the acceleration of gravity**.*

*Thế lực là nguồn lực của dòng nước ngầm và bằng tích của cột nước thủy lực và **gia tốc trọng lực**.*

Another noticeable context is when nominalizations occur in independent phrases which can be separated from other parts of sentences with commas.

A flow net is especially useful in isotropic media; however, with certain transformations, it can be used with anisotropic aquifers.

Lưới thấm đặc biệt hữu dụng trong môi trường đẳng hướng. Tuy nhiên, với một số biến đổi nhất định, nó có thể dùng cho các tầng chứa nước dị hướng.

Particularly, noun phrases in the sentences with empty subject **There** are frequently translated into TL in form of noun phrases like in the following sentence.

If there is the steady movement of ground water in a confined aquifer, there will be gradient or slope to the potentiometric surface of the aquifer.

Nếu trong tầng chứa nước bị chặn có chuyển động ổn định của nước ngầm thì có gradient hay độ dốc mặt thế của tầng chứa nước.

In short, with translation procedure, SL noun phrases can be transferred by SL verb phrases or SL noun phrases. Although the former (76%) is 3 times more common than the latter (24%), each way has its typical contribution. While the former adapts to the common expressive ways of Vietnamese language (verb phrases rather than noun phrases), the latter helps to create a variety of structures in TL grammar. The translators should read the sentences with nominalizations carefully to figure out the sentence structures before choosing the appropriate way, by VPs or NPs, in order to have a perfect translation.

5. CONCLUSION

Through a study on translation theories, accompanied with an investigation into both English geological texts and their equivalent

Vietnamese ones, the author succeeded in finding out transposition procedure as the appropriate translation procedure to deal with English - Vietnamese translation of nominalization in geological documents. In the studied geological texts, nominalization is widely applied as one of the most popular expression ways to ensure the objectivity and avoid the subjectivity of the texts. In addition, nouns and noun phrases also help to create formality, clarity, and precision for the writings. With transposition procedure, 76 % SL nominalizations are translated by TL verb phrases to adapt to the common expressive ways of Vietnamese language. The remaining 24% nominalizations are transferred by adequate TL noun phrases, especially when these noun phrases appear in definitions, separate phrases and in the sentences with empty subject **There**.

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