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«Актуальные вопросы преподавания иностранного языка в высшей школе»

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## **ПРОГРАММА VI МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ НАУЧНО-ПРАКТИЧЕСКОЙ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ**

### **«Актуальные вопросы преподавания иностранного языка в высшей школе»**

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## Секция

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## Секция

### «КОММУНИКАТИВНОЕ И ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНО ОРИЕНТИРОВАННОЕ ОБУЧЕНИЕ ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ»

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## **SUGGESTED PROCEDURES FOR ENGLISH-VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF RELATIVE CLAUSES IN GEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS**

**Abstract.** Through an investigation into the translation methods proposed by Delisle, Vinay and Darbelnet together with a study of the hydrogeological documents in English and equivalent Vietnamese documents, the paper figures out three suitable translation methods to translate sentences with relative clauses in English geological documents into Vietnamese, including transposition, omission and addition. Transposition uses the linking word mà with automatic change in word order in the relative clause, helps to make the ideas of the sentence connected smoothly, coherently and ensure the semantic relationship between the relative clause and the rest of the sentence. In particular, the conjunction mà often appears when the noun of the main clause expresses time or place and the relative clause begins with the relative adverbs when and where. With omission procedure, the relative pronouns (which and that) that play the role of the subject of the verb in the relative clause will be removed in the translated text without affecting the meaning of the sentence; accordingly, making the translated text be concise, less verbose, and at the same time, ensuring the accuracy, conciseness and coherence of the specialized text. Addition procedure is especially suitable for long, complex sentences containing a lot of information; then, in order to avoid ambiguity for the translation, long sentences will be separated into short sentences or clauses when translated from English to Vietnamese.

**Key words:** translation procedure, transposition, omission, addition, relative clauses, hydrogeological documents.

### **1. Introduction**

Today, the teaching and learning of specialized English subjects has proven its great role in helping teachers and students access new specialized knowledge. However, accurately translating specialized documents in English into Vietnamese is really challenging. In particular, translating sentences containing relative clauses in specialized texts has caused many difficulties. Through the study of translation methods proposed by Delisle, Vinay and Darbelnet [1, 2] and survey of geological documents,

the article proposes appropriate and useful translation procedures to translate relative clauses in English geology specialized documents into Vietnamese.

Basically, translation is a process of transferring meanings from the source language (SL) into the target language (TG). To carry out this process, the translator needs a certain translation method or translation procedure [3, 4]. According to Newmark, the translation method is concerned with the whole translated text while the translation procedure is used for sentences and smaller linguistic units [3].

Vinay and Darbelnet distinguished translation methods into two main types: direct translation and indirect/oblique translation. Direct translation methods include borrowing, calque and literal translation [1]. Indirect translation methods are composed of transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation [1]. In addition, Delisle added four indirect translation procedures: addition, omission, paraphrase and discursive creation [1]. For the targeted research purpose, the three translation procedures including transposition, addition and omission will be analyzed clearly in the following section.

**Transposition** is the 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 word, change of an SL noun group to a TL noun and so forth [3]. According to Newmark [3], transposition is the only translation procedure concerned with grammar, and most translators make transpositions intuitively. Transposition also means the replacing of one word-class by another without changing the meaning of the message. Mostly, some words denoting the meaning in the former language, then its translated form may be given not as the same structure in the latter [5]. A very simple example of transposition is the translation of “a beautiful girl” with “một cô gái xinh đẹp”, which involves automatic change of word order in the noun phrase from SL into TL.

**Addition** is a type of grammatical transformation which can be used formal inexpressiveness of grammatical or semantic components of the original texts. Addition means to give the meaning with the use of another word adding to a context [2]. Nida [6] mentions various contexts that might oblige the translator to make an addition: to clarify an elliptic expression, to avoid ambiguity in the target language, to change a grammatical category, or to amplify implicit elements to add connectors. For example, SL elliptic phrases like “the Beanie Babies” and “eBay” can be translated with addition procedure as “những món đồ chơi Beanie Babe” and “trang mạng đấu giá trực tuyến eBay”, respectively.

**Omission** is a grammatical redundancy of certain forms in two languages. Whenever we do translation, we are certain to meet some speech omitted or supposed to be [2]. There are four situations where the translator should use omission procedure, in addition to when it is required by the TL: unnecessary repetition, specified references, conjunctions and adverbs [6]. For instance, the relative pronoun in the SL phrase “the car that I bought last year” is omitted in the TL phrase “chiếc xe tôi mua năm ngoái”.

Delisle considered omission to be concision and addition to be unjustified periphrasis and regarded these two translation procedures to be translation errors [4].

According to Denisle [1], while addition adds irrational stylistic information or elements that are not in the SL into the TG, omission is the suppression of the elements present in the SL so that they no longer appear in the TG [1].

A relative clause is a component of a sentence used to better explain the preceding noun, often used to combine two simple sentences into a complex sentence, consisting of at least two clauses [7, 8]. Translating a sentence with a relative clause is not easy due to the complex structure of the sentence. According to Newmark, sentences containing relative clauses are one of the very typical features of specialized documents [3, 5].

In the next part, qualitative research method was applied to observe and analyze English sentences containing relative clauses and equivalent Vietnamese sentences in geological documents. The research data were extracted from the English coursebook named *Applied Hydrogeology* by C.W. Fetter [9] and its translations (volume 1 and volume 2) by Nguyen Uyen, Pham Thanh Hien and Pham Huu Sy [10]. Thereby, the advantages and disadvantages of translation procedures applied to translate sentences containing relative clauses in English documents will be evaluated to find appropriate translation procedures.

## **2. Content**

### *2.1. Relative clauses in geological texts.*

Research results show that relative clauses are widely used in English geology texts to serve their two main traditional functions. While restrictive relative clauses define subsets or to specify a particular subset of a general class as a necessary qualifying element in a nominal group especially when the classifier cannot provide enough qualifying information; non-restrictive ones give some additional information about things or persons which are already fully specified. English relative clauses in geological texts can be finite or nonfinite clause. When they are finite, they can be introduced by one of relative pronouns like who, which, that, whom, whose, or relative adverbs such as when, why, where. In some cases, the relative pronouns/ adverbs can be omitted, in others, they cannot. When they are non-finite clauses, they can be -ing clauses, -ed clauses, or to- infinitive clauses.

Unlike English grammar, in Vietnamese, the ideas of relative pronouns and clauses do not exist in Vietnamese; therefore, to fill the gap between SL and TL or to compensate for the fact that there is no equivalent of relative pronouns in Vietnamese, in most cases, the translators use the words *ở nơi mà, ngày mà, ở đây, tại đây, khi* as a linking device plus a verb phrase together with other elements (if any) to transfer the relative clauses into Vietnamese. Using the linking device *mà* makes the translated sentences more cohesive and coherent.

Specifically, the research results indicate three main translation procedures applied for translating sentences containing relative clauses English geological texts into Vietnamese, namely, transposition, omission, and addition.

### *2.2. Translation of the relative clauses with transposition*

Since a relative pronoun modifies the preceding noun and is directly affected by the role of this noun in the sentence (i.e., as subject or object of the main verb), translation of this pronoun can have an impact on English - Vietnamese translation of the

whole sentence. Specifically, if the noun of the main clause serves as the object of the verb in the relative clause, *mà* is adopted to create cohesion in the translated sentence.

*The start of the baseflow recession was considered to be the day when the annual discharge dropped below 3500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s.*

*Thời điểm bắt đầu của sự suy giảm dòng cơ sở là ngày mà lượng mưa hàng năm dưới 3500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s.*

*Wells in tectonic valleys should be located where the aquifer material is coarse, the depth to water is not great, and a source of recharge water is available.*

*Các giếng khai thác trong những thung lũng kiến tạo phải được đặt ở những nơi mà vật liệu chứa nước là hạt thô, độ sâu mực nước ngầm không lớn và nguồn bổ sung nước đã có sẵn.*

It can be seen that *mà* is often used in explanation, which is followed by a clause accompanying the noun it modifies. The use of *mà* can make the ideas of the whole sentence go smoothly and ensure the semantic relation denoted by the relative clause with other parts of the sentence. However, the linking word *mà* often appears when the noun of the main clause expresses the time or space at/ in which the event in the relative clause takes place, and the relative clause is introduced by relative adverbs like *when* and *where*. In TL sentences, *mà* will follow some other words like *ở những nơi, trong những tháng* to act as linking devices to replace the relative pronouns and make the sentences coherent.

### *2.3. Translation of the relative clauses with omission*

Like English relative pronouns, the word *mà* can be omitted just like the way in which relative pronouns in English are omitted. This phenomenon is especially true with relative clauses starting with *that* and *which* like the following sentences:

*Research has shown that the manner in which precipitation is measured can affect the amount of evaporation that is calculated at an evaporation station.*

*Các nghiên cứu cho thấy rằng cách đo lượng mưa có ảnh hưởng đến lượng bốc hơi tính được từ một trạm bốc hơi.*

In these above sentences, the relative pronouns like *which* and *that* can be essential in the SL texts since they often precede the verbs and act as the subject of the relative clause; however, they become non-essential and can be ignored with omission procedure when transferred into TL. Although the word *mà* is hidden in TL, it can be very easy for the readers to understand the meanings of the sentences. It can be seen that without the linking device *mà*, the TL texts seem to sound more concise, less lengthy and complex, which helps to ensure the accuracy of the technical documents, and the brevity and coherence of the translation. This phenomenon is especially popular with phrases in the legend of the figures present in the study data where the translators tend to omit all the linking devices in TL to make short and accurate phrases for explanation like the following phrases:

*A. Cross section of a gaining stream, which is typical of humid regions, where ground water recharges streams.*

*A. Mặt cắt ngang một dòng chảy nhận nước điển hình cho các vùng ẩm - nước ngầm đổ vào dòng chảy.*

*B. Cross section of a losing stream, which is typical of arid regions, where streams can recharge ground water.*

*B. Mặt cắt ngang một dòng chảy mặt nước điển hình cho các vùng khô hạn - nước từ dòng chảy đổ vào nước ngầm*

It can be obviously seen that the relative pronouns (which, that) in the first part of SL phrases are successfully translated into TL by omissions. The case, however, is not adequate with the pronoun (where) since this makes the readers quite confused to understand the meaning of the whole phrases. Therefore, it is advisable that the translators should only apply omission procedure with the relative pronouns like **which** and **that**.

#### *2.4. Translation of the relative clauses with addition*

Noticeably, there are so many long and complex relative clauses with too much information in investigated geology texts. These sentences are often difficult to translate since they can lead to lengthy and ambiguous TL versions. In most cases, these sentences are often cut into short, simple independent sentences or two independent clauses of a compound sentence and translated with syntagmatic change, a subtype of transposition procedure. As a result, there will be a loosen structure between the clauses in the sentences in TL but the division does not affect the sentence's meaning. Syntagmatic change is frequently seen in the translation of non-restrictive relative clauses, especially those beginning with which to say something about the whole situation described in the main clause.

*Water that infiltrates into the soil on a slope can move downslope as lateral unsaturated flow in the soil zone, called through flow.*

*Nước thấm vào đất ở mái dốc có thể chảy xuôi dốc như thể dòng chảy ở bên không bão hòa ở trong đới đất. Có người gọi đó là dòng chảy xuyên (through flow).*

In the above sentence, the relative clause is shortened as “called through flow”, but obviously the full clause can be easily recovered as “which is called through flow”. When translated, the long and complex sentence is divided into two sentences to avoid the ambiguity in the translation. This procedure can be seen as a type of additions in translation. Therefore, it is a good idea that in order to avoid the ambiguity in the translation of lengthy and complex sentences containing relative clauses, the translators should read them through and analyze the meanings carefully, then spit them into smaller ones to translate them with transposition procedure like the following sentence:

*At any given temperature, air can hold a maximum amount of moisture, called the saturation humidity, which is directly proportional to the temperature of the air.*

*Ở bất kì nhiệt độ nào không khí cũng có thể chứa một lượng cực đại hơi nước, đó là độ ẩm không khí. Nó tỷ lệ thuận với nhiệt độ không khí.*

Besides, apposition, symmetrical positions of two nouns equal in terms of grammar category to denote a certain qualitative relationship and expressed by means of a noun or a noun phrase modifying the preceding noun, is also adopted as a variation of addition to translate relative clauses particularly when the use of linking devices such as ở nơi mà, ngày mà, ở đây, tại đây, khi is impossible and the relative pronoun means the subject of the non-restrictive relative clause, then the relative pronoun is realized through the meaning of the noun it modifies regardless of the role of that noun in the previous clause of the same sentence. Let consider the following examples for more details.



*In ground-water hydrology, we utilize the concept of a ground-water basin, which is the subsurface volume through which ground water flows toward a specific discharge zone.*

*Trong thủy văn nước ngầm, ta có khái niệm lưu vực nước ngầm - đó là một thể tích ngầm dưới mặt đất qua đó các mạch nước ngầm chảy về một vùng thoát riêng biệt.*

*Luszczynski (1961) introduced the concept of point-water head, which is the water level in a well filled with water coming from a point in an aquifer and which is just enough to balance the pressure in the aquifer at that point.*

*Luszczynski (1961) đưa ra khái niệm cột nước – điểm (point – water head), nó là mực nước trong giếng chứa đầy nước tới từ một điểm trong tầng chứa nước và đủ cân bằng với tầng áp suất trong tầng chứa nước tại điểm này.*

It is obvious that the apposition can be expressed by hyphenate or a linking word like **đó là, tức là, nó là** or by both to distinguish the main clause and the relative clause in TL. Though translation with apposition does not frequently appear in the investigated data, it proves to be an effective translation procedure because it can help to have precise and accurate translation versions.

### **3. Conclusion**

Through investigating the translation methods proposed by Delisle [1], Vinay and Darbelnet [2] as well as the hydrogeological documents in English and equivalent Vietnamese documents, the paper proposes three suitable translation methods to translate sentences with relative clauses in English geological documents into Vietnamese, including transposition, omission and addition. Transposition uses the linking word **mà** with automatic change in word order in the relative clause, helps to make the ideas of the sentence connected smoothly, coherently and ensure the semantic relationship between the relative clause and the rest of the sentence. In particular, the conjunction **mà** often appears when the noun of the main clause expresses time or place and the relative clause begins with the relative adverbs **when** and **where**. With omission procedure, the relative pronouns (**which** and **that**) that play the role of the subject of the verb in the relative clause will be removed in the translated text without affecting the meaning of the sentence; accordingly, making the translated text be concise, less verbose, and at the same time, ensuring the accuracy, conciseness and coherence of the specialized text. Addition procedure is especially suitable for long, complex sentences containing a lot of information; then, in order to avoid ambiguity for the translation, long sentences will be separated into short sentences or clauses when translated from English to Vietnamese.

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**Новосельцева И. И.**

## **ЭТНООРИЕНТИРОВАННЫЙ ПОДХОД В ПРОЦЕССЕ РАЗВИТИЯ КОММУНИКАТИВНОЙ КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ МАГИСТРАНТОВ-ИНОФОНОВ**

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются формы работы по развитию речи магистрантов в процессе обучения русскому языку как иностранному. Обучающий потенциал текстов профессиональной и социокультурной тематики способствует активизации у инофонов познавательной и речевой деятельности, смыслового опыта. Опора на коммуникативную направленность заданий и этноориентированный подход стимулирует учебную мотивацию и повышает эффективность формирования языковых, социокультурных и коммуникативных умений и навыков обучаемых.

Ключевые слова: текст, этноориентированный подход, речевая деятельность, коммуникативная компетенция.

В современной методике преподавания иностранных языков коммуникативная компетенция рассматривается как «уровень владения языковыми, речевыми и социокультурными знаниями, умениями и навыками, который позволяет обучаемому коммуникативно приемлемо и целесообразно варьировать свое речевое поведение в зависимости от психологических факторов общения» [9, 122] и ведет к приобретению компетентности – способности осуществлять речевую деятельность в соответствии с целями и ситуацией общения в определенной сфере деятельности средствами изучаемого языка. Содержание обучения русскому языку как иностранному предусматривает его активное наполнение культурно значимыми элементами с целью развития у инофонов не только лексико-грамматических и речевых иноязычных навыков, но и социокультурной компетенции, которая является «системообразующим компонентом в структуре иноязычной коммуникативной компетенции, связывая воедино другие ее компоненты» [2, 10], так как владение фоновыми знаниями о своей и чужой культуре позволяет грамотно выстраивать межкультурное общение, предупреждать коммуникативные неудачи.