

The Northern and the Southern Dialect Expressions of Vietnamese and Teaching Them to Foreign Learners*

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I. Introduction

Almost all languages have different dialects formed by a variety of factors and causes. The differences of dialects in terms of vocabulary, phonetics, and accent have created an abundance and diversity to each country's languages. Vietnam has different dialects. However, although Vietnamese speak with different accents and dialects they can understand each other quite easily.

To foreign learners studying Vietnamese, when approaching one kind of Vietnamese dialect that they have not studied yet, they will find it challenging due to differences in vocabulary, phonetics, and accents. This paper, therefore, will examine the northern and southern

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dialects, which are two major Vietnamese dialects, and how to teach them to foreign learners efficiently. However, within the scope of this paper, the Northern and Southern dialect expressions will be the focus of the investigation.

To pursue this purpose, we will (i) collect and classify the Northern and Southern dialect expressions into different groups based on similar and different characteristics in terms of form, meaning and use, (ii) analyze the distinctive characteristics of each group and recommend appropriate methods of teaching them to foreign learners; and (iii) present an appendix of the Northern and Southern dialect expressions in order to help foreign learners to look up, learn and use these dialects more conveniently.

The classification of the northern and southern dialect expressions into categories such as synonym, homonym, and analysis of the distinctive characteristics of each category's dialect expressions may facilitate foreign learners not only to identify and memorize these dialects but also acquire them due to "overlaps in collocation, syntagmatic and paradigmatic associations, grammatical functions, and meaning and form between synonym" (Webb 2007:120-136).

II. Literature Review

1. Introduction of Dialect

According to the Cambridge dictionary, "dialect is a form of a language that people speak in a particular part of a country, containing

some different words, grammar and pronunciations.” For example, there are many different dialects of English and they have different expressions and grammar. In American English language, the existence of dialects results from a combination of historical, social and linguistic causes (Wolfram and Schilling-Estes 2015). In Vietnamese, the formation of dialects also results from a combination of many causes and factors, such as history, geography, economy, linguistics, and cultural and linguistic contact (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002; Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009). The following outlines outstanding reasons leading to the formation of Vietnamese dialects.

(1) Factors of History and Language Contact

In the period between Chinese domination and the first stage of independence from China, Vietnamese (Viet-Muong) in the northern region of Vietnam came into contact with Han and Tay languages and cultures. As a result, Vietnamese (Viet-Muong) changed in terms of phonetics, lexis and syntax significantly. It basically lost its typical features of Mon-Khmer language and borrowed specific characteristics from Tay-Thai and Han languages, such as, changing final consonants or forming tones. Consequently, in the 12th century, Vietnamese in the northern region had six tones while Vietnamese in the Central northern region has only five tones or even four tones. Similarly, Vietnamese in the northern region borrowed many Han and Tay expressions while the Vietnamese language in the Central northern region maintained many Mon-Khmer expressions (Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009). Later, when the Vietnamese territory gradually expanded down to the Central part (15th-17th centuries) and to the South

(17th-18th centuries), Vietnamese in the Central northern region continued to contact with Cham and Khmer languages - native languages - as well as with Mandarin language of the Chinese refugees who migrated to the South of Vietnam for political and/or economic reasons. As a result, Vietnamese in the Central northern and northern regions borrowed many Cham, Khmer and Mandarin expressions and pronunciations. This leads to the differences between the northern and the southern dialects of Vietnamese in terms of phonetics and lexis (Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009).

(2) Factor of Geography

Vietnam's geographical shape is like an elongated letter "S". It stretches from the northern to the southern region, with 1,650 kilometers in length and is separated by mountain ranges in the middle of Vietnam, such as the Tam Điệp, Hoàng Sơn, Bạch Mã mountain ranges. Thus, traffic between the northern and southern regions is very difficult. Across many centuries, the Central Vietnamese dialect mainly had contact and exchange with languages and cultures of local ethnic minorities. As a result, many dialects were formed and developed in Central Vietnam (Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009). In addition, natural geographical features of the Southern region have had impact on and creating dialectal words. For example, in the area of Mekong River Delta (South of Vietnam) there are many dialect words related to rivers, canals, tide, such as, *đĩa* (pond), *bung* (swamp), *biền* (flood land), *nước ròng* (low tide).

(3) Factors of Language and Culture Contact

The Vietnamese southern dialect also maintains many foreign expressions originated from Mandarin, French, English, Russian and Khmer languages, due to contact with these foreign languages in the long history of Vietnam. For instance, in the period of the French imposition of colonial rule in the South of Vietnam (1887-1945) and then the American occupation in the South of Vietnam (1954-1975), many words originated from French and English were borrowed and used in daily life of the southern people, such as *ca vát* (cravat), *giấy cạc-tông* (carton), *xăng* (essence), *lít* (liter), *xà bông* (savon), *la ve* (la bière), *sơ mi* (chemise), *xúc xích* (sausage), *bôi* (boy), *ten nít* (tennis), *mít tinh* (meeting). Also, geographical names of some places in Mekong River Delta's provinces still use words originated from Khmer language, such as “sóc” (Sóc Trăng), “trà” (Trà Cú, Trà Vinh), “cái” (Cái Sắn, Cái Nhum, Cái Bè).

In a nutshell, due to the above factors and reasons, many of the southern dialect expressions are now different to those of the northern dialect. This difference causes difficulties for foreign learners who are studying either the North Vietnamese dialect or the southern Vietnamese dialect.

2. Vietnamese Dialects

The Vietnamese language is an analytic, isolating language in which the words do not change their forms in sentences. For example verbs and nouns do not inflect for past/present tense and for

singular/plural respectively. In addition, Vietnamese is also a tonal language. Standard Vietnamese has 6 different tones comprising *ngang* (level tone), *huyền* (falling tone), *hỏi* (falling rising tone), *ngã* (high broken tone), *sắc* (rising tone), and *nặng* (low broken tone). Every word is marked with a tone and differences in tone lead to changes in meaning.

The Vietnamese language has basically split into three main dialect regions based on geography and located mainly in the North, Central and South of Vietnam respectively (Hoàng Thị Châu 2004). The northern dialect regions are concentrated in and around the capital Hà Nội and all the provinces of the northern region of Vietnam. The Central dialect region includes the northern Central provinces, from Thanh Hóa province to Đèo Hải Vân (the Hai Van Pass, which is located on the border of Đà Nẵng and Thừa Thiên Huế Provinces). The southern dialect is found from The Hải Vân Pass to the southern border of Vietnam. Generally, the three dialects of the Vietnamese language differ somewhat in their system of tones, initial and final consonants and local lexis. For example, the northern Vietnamese variant comprises six different tones but the southern Vietnamese variant has only five tones. Although there are distinct differences between the three main dialects of the Vietnamese language in terms of phonetics and lexis, these differences are not very significant, and the Vietnamese people living in the three regions can still understand each other.

(1) Researching on the Northern and Southern Dialects of Vietnamese

There have been various studies on the northern and southern

dialects, in terms of overview of Vietnamese dialect studies (Hoàng Thị Châu 2004), factors and causes forming types of Vietnamese dialect (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002; Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009; Huỳnh Công Tín 1998), characteristic differences between the northern and southern dialects (Nguyễn Đức Dương and Trần Thị Ngọc Lang 1983; Ha 2009), teaching Vietnamese dialects for foreigners (Tô Đình Nghĩa 2002; Phan Trần Công 2006; Trần Văn Tiếng 1995). The following are reviews of outstanding studies researching the northern and southern dialects.

In her textbook *Vietnamese Dialect Studies*, Hoàng Thị Châu (2004) introduced all local dialects of Vietnamese, including three main dialects which are the northern, the Central and the southern dialects. In addition, she explained causes and rules of variations of the three dialects' phonetics. For example, analyzing and comparing systems of structure of syllables, initial consonants, rhyme, tendency of variations of vowels, final consonants, tones.

In terms of factors and causes that formed types of Vietnamese dialects, researchers (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002; Lý Tùng Hiếu 2009; Huỳnh Công Tín 1998), showed that the northern-southern dialects of Vietnamese are shaped basically from factors and causes such as history, geography, society, economy, linguistic, cultural and language contact, etc.

Literature on the characteristic differences between the northern and the southern dialects has resulted in significant research to date (Nguyễn Đức Dương and Trần Thị Ngọc Lang 1983, Trần Thị Ngọc Lang 1995; Ha 2009). These researchers showed differences in lexis and semantics between the Vietnamese dialects. Particularly, Trần Thị

Ngọc Lang 2002 pointed out differences in grammar between the Northern and the Southern dialects. In addition, Cao Xuân Hạo (1998) and Nguyễn Kiên Trường (2012) studied and compared differences between Vietnamese dialects in terms of phonetics.

Very little research has investigated the teaching of the Vietnamese dialects to foreign learners. They comprise (i) one solution of teaching Sai Gon's language (the Southern dialects) for foreigners (Trần Văn Tiếng 1995) and (ii) teaching Vietnamese pronunciation based on the southern dialect: advantages and limitations (Phan Trần Công 2006).

Overall, the literature on the study of Vietnamese dialects is quite significant. However, all of these studies are written in Vietnamese and this causes difficulties for foreign scholars and students to read and understand these articles if they do not know Vietnamese language. In addition, almost all of these articles merely study the Vietnamese dialects and in terms of implications, these articles do not study how to distinguish and teach the northern and southern Vietnamese dialect expressions for foreign learners.

Our paper will classify and distinguish the Vietnamese northern and southern dialect expressions based on the similar and different characteristics in terms of form, meaning and use. Thus, we expect it to be essential for and make a practical contribution to teaching and learning of Vietnamese dialect expressions and Vietnamese as a foreign/second language (hereafter "VFL/VSL") in general for foreign learners.

III. Methodology

1. Data Sources

The northern and southern dialects of Vietnamese were collected from Vietnamese language teaching textbooks, teaching materials, and documents being taught at the Busan University of Foreign Studies, including: (i) Vietnamese language textbooks published by the Busan University of Foreign Studies; (ii) Vietnamese textbooks (used for foreigners) published by the Institute of Language Development (Ha Noi); (iii) Vietnamese textbooks for Foreigners published by Department of Vietnamese Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh city and (iv) Vietnamese Dictionary 2010 published by Center of Dictionary Studies.

2. Methodology of Collection and Analysis

Firstly, the northern and southern dialect expressions were collected from data sources and evaluated by native Vietnamese lecturers who come from both Vietnamese northern and southern regions and are teaching Vietnamese studies and Vietnamese language at the Busan University of Foreign Studies.

Secondly, the northern and southern dialect expressions in the corpus were classified into different groups according to similar and different characteristics in terms of form, meaning and use. Then, the distinctive characteristics of each group were analyzed.

Finally, these Northern and Southern dialect items were listed in an appendix in order to help foreign learners to refer to, learn and use these dialects more conveniently.

IV. Classification of Vietnamese Northern and Southern Dialect Expressions

Based on similar and different characteristics in terms of form, meaning and use, the northern and southern dialect words have been provisionally classified, as follows:

- a. Synonym but pronunciation and spellings are different due to phonetic variants;
- b. Synonym but different in spellings and pronunciation due to borrowing foreign expressions;
- c. Homonym; and
- d. The northern/southern - southern/northern compound words.

The following section will analyze in detail the different characteristics of each group.

1. Synonym but with Pronunciation and Spellings Difference Due to Phonetic Variants

Due to the history of phonological development and phonological

rules of the Vietnamese, there are a group of northern and southern dialect expressions which have the same meaning but have insignificant differences in spellings and pronunciation due to phonetic variants (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002). The differences between them included differences in one or two components of a word form, such as differences of tones or initial consonants or main vowels or final consonants.

(1) Synonym but Difference of Tones

The Northern and Southern dialect expressions have the same meanings but they have different tones. For example (hereafter, examples compared the northern dialect expressions with the southern dialect expressions, the northern dialect words come first and followed by the southern dialect expressions): *nhại/nhái* (imitate), *loãng/loảng* (weak), *sững/sựng* (still/motionless).

In the first pair *nhại/ nhái* (imitate), *nhại* is from the northern dialect, and *nhái* is from the Southern dialect. They both mean “imitate”. The difference between them is that the first word carries a low broken tone (*nặng*), whereas the second word carries a rising tone (*sắc*). As can be seen in this example, the low broken tone of the northern dialect word *nhại* is changed to the rising tone of the southern dialect word *nhái*.

In the second pair *loãng/loảng* (weak), *loãng* is from the northern dialect and *loảng* is from the southern dialect. They both mean weak. The difference between them is that the first word carries a high broken tone (*ngã*), whereas the second word carries a falling rising tone (*hỏi*). The high broken tone of the northern dialect word *loãng*

is changed to the falling rising tone of the southern dialect word *loãng*.

Although the high broken tone (*ngã*) and the falling rising tone (*hỏi*) are different in terms of tone diacritics in the southern Vietnamese language, these tones are pronounced similarly. Therefore, when teaching the southern Vietnamese tones for foreign learners, teachers should point out the similarity of the high broken tone and the falling rising tone in terms of articulation.

(2) Synonym but with Difference of Initial Consonants

In this group, the northern and southern dialect expressions have the same meanings but they have different initial consonants. For example, (the initial consonants are in bold), **g***iai/trai* (boy), **g***io/tro* (ash), **nh***áp/dáp* (moistening the throat), **nh***úng/dúng* (to dip), **nh***út nhát/dút dát* (timid), **nh***ăm nhe/lăm le* (to attempt), **nh***em nhuốc/lem luốc* (dirty), **đ***úm dỏ/rúm ró* (battered), **đ***ộp/rộp* (blister).

As can be seen, the pair of northern and southern dialect expressions: **g***iai/trai* has the same meaning, “boy”. The first word is a northern dialect word and the second word is a southern dialect word. They are different in terms of initial consonants. The initial consonant of the former is gi[z] and the initial consonant of the latter is tr[t]. The following examples present cases where the initial consonants of the northern dialect expressions are changed into different initial consonants of the southern dialect expressions.

- **g***iai/trai* (boy), **g***io/tro* (ash) → the initial consonant gi[z] is changed to t[t].
- **nh***áp/dáp* (moistening the throat), **nh***úng/dúng* (to dip), **nh***út nhát/*

đút dát (timid) → the initial consonant *nh* [ɲ] is changed to *d* [z].

- **nhămnhè/lăm le** (to attempt), **nhem nhuốc/ lem luốc** (dirty) → the initial consonant *nh* [ɲ] is changed to *l* [l].
- **dúmdó/rúm ró** (battered), **độp/rộp** (blister) → the initial consonant *d* [z] is changed to *r* [ʒ].

(3) Synonym but with Difference in Main Vowels

In this group, the northern and southern dialect expressions have the same meanings but they have different main vowels. For example (the main vowels are in bold), **lĩnh/lãnh** (to receive), **chính/chánh** (main), **sinh/sanh** (to give birth), **tầng/tùng** (floor), **chân/chum** (foot), **nhất/nhút** (first), **thư/thơ** (letter), **gửi/gởi** (to send), **ngẩng/ngửng**. In these pairs of expressions, the second words (the southern dialect words), such as *lãnh*, *chánh*, *sanh*, *tùng*, *chum*, *nhút*, *thơ*, *gởi* are phonic variants of the first words (the northern dialect words) respectively, such as *lĩnh*, *chính*, *sinh*, *tầng*, *chân*, *nhất*, *thư*, *gửi* in some expressions originating from Sino-Vietnamese (Hoàng Phê 2010). These northern and southern dialect words have phonetic variations in terms of main vowels, as follows:

- **lĩnh/lãnh** (to receive), **chính/chánh** (main), **sinh/sanh** (to give birth) → the main vowel *i* [i] is changed to *a* [a].
- **tầng/tùng** (floor), **chân /chum** (foot), **nhất/nhút** (first) → the main vowel *ê* [ɛ] is changed to *u* [u].
- **thư/thơ** (letter), **gửi/gởi** (send) → the main vowel *u* [u] is changed to *ơ* [ɔ].

(4) Synonym but with Difference in Final Consonants

In this group, the northern and southern dialect words have the same meanings but they have different final consonants. For example (consonants are in bold): *giúp/giùm* (help), *ngạt/ngôp* (asphyxia).

As can be seen, the pair of northern and southern dialect words: The pair of northern and southern dialect words: *giúp/giùm* (help) has the same meaning “help”. The first word *giúp* is a northern dialect word and the second word *giùm* is a southern dialect word. They are different from each other in terms of final consonants. The final consonant of the first word is *p* [-p] which is a voiceless stop consonant and the final consonant of the second word is *m* [m] which is a voiced consonant.

In a nutshell, due to phonetic variants, there are pairs of northern and southern dialect expressions which have the same meanings but have insignificant differences in terms of spellings and pronunciation. When teaching Vietnamese dialects, educators may introduce and explain briefly the history of Vietnamese phonological development and phonological rules that formed these dialect expressions. Educators should compare and point out the close similarities between the northern and southern dialect expressions in terms of spellings and pronunciation. Therefore, foreign learners can understand and guess the meanings of these dialect expressions when they read and hear them.

2. Synonym but with Difference in Pronunciation Due to Borrowing Foreign Expressions

Vietnamese language has had contact with and borrowed many foreign expressions from other languages. The Vietnamese northern dialect has had contact with and borrowed expressions from Thai and Han languages, while the Vietnamese southern dialect has borrowed expressions from Cham and Khmer languages (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002) and French, English, Russian languages in the 19th ~ 20th centuries. As a result, there are many the northern and southern dialect expressions which have same meanings but have completely different pronunciation and spellings (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002). For example: *bát/chén* (bowl), *cốc/ly* (glass), *màn/mùng* (mosquito-net), *quả/trái* (fruit), *sắn/mì* (cassava) *đắt/mắc* (expensive), *bố mẹ/ba má* (parents), *xấu hổ/mắc cỡ* (shy), *lợn/heo* (pig), *đỗ/đậu* (bean), *ngô/bắp* (corn), *dừa/thơm* (pine apple), *lạc/đậu phộng* (peanut), *nem rán/chả giò* (spring roll), *tất/vớ* (sock), *bắt nạt/ăn hiếp* (to bully), *hỏng/hư* (out of order), *say/xìu* (drunk), *cùn/lục* (blunt [knife]), *mì chính/bột ngọt* (monosodium glutamate).

As can be seen, the pair of northern and southern dialect words *bát/chén* has the same meaning “bowl”. The first word *bát* is a northern dialect word pronounced as [bat] and the second word *chén* is a southern dialect word pronounced as [cɛn]. They are completely different from each other in terms of spellings and pronunciation.





When teaching these kinds of Vietnamese dialect vocabulary to foreign learners, both the northern expressions and its synonyms (the



southern expressions) should be introduced at the same time. In addition, pronunciation of these dialects in the northern and southern accents should be introduced and taught carefully. Furthermore, teachers should create synonym worksheets or synonym matching games and ask learners to choose the best synonym for the word given. These activities and games are of great efficiency in helping learners to study and remember these synonyms.

3. Homonym

The northern dialect has borrowed many Sino-Vietnamese expressions or expressions originated from Han language and these borrowed words have changed its meanings. As a result, there are the northern and southern dialect expressions which have the same spellings and pronunciation but they have completely different meanings (Hoàng Thị Châu 2002).

<Figure 1> The Vietnamese Northern and Southern Homonyms

Words	Northern dialect words' meaning	Southern dialect words' meaning	Words	Northern dialect words' meaning	Southern dialect words' meaning
thằn lằn	 thằn lằn (black-banded skink)	 thằn lằn (lizard)	ốm	 ốm (sick)	 ốm (thin)

chén	 <p>chén (glass)</p>	 <p>chén (bowl)</p>	la	 <p>la (shout)</p>	 <p>la (scold)</p>
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As can be seen in this Figure, there are several types of homonyms which are nouns, adjectives and verbs.

- The expressions which have the same spellings and pronunciation but refer to different things, events and phenomena between the northern and the southern dialects. For example, *thằn lằn* (black-banded skink/lizard), *chén* (glass/bowl), <Figure 1> shows that in the northern dialect, *thằn lằn* is a black-banded skink. It is one kind of reptile and its habitats are bush and hedges whereas in the southern dialect, *thằn lằn* is a (house) lizard. It can be seen climbing walls of houses and buildings.

- Expressions which have the same spelling and pronunciation but describe different characteristics, qualities and properties of things or people between the North and southern dialects. <Figure 1> shows that in the northern dialect, *ốm* means not having good health while in the southern dialect; *ốm* shows (body of humans and animals) which have less fat and meat.

- Expressions which have the same spelling and pronunciation but express different actions, states and processes between the northern and the southern dialects. As can be seen on <Figure 1>, in the northern dialect, *la* means to say something very loudly but in the southern dialect, *la* means to speak angrily to someone, especially a child, because they have done something wrong (Cambridge

Dictionary online).

In short, in our corpus, there are few northern and southern dialect expressions and it is easy for foreign students to memorize them. When teaching these kinds of dialects, instructors should combine some supporting techniques such as pictures to demonstrate these dialect expressions (see <Figure 1>), matching games in order to help students with memorization and retention of these dialect expressions.

4. Northern/Southern and Southern/Northern Compound Words

There are northern-southern dialect coordinated compound words formed by combining one northern/southern word with one southern/northern word and the two components of these words have a coordinated meaning. According to Trần Thị Ngọc Lang 1995 and Hoàng Thị Châu 2004, these coordinated compound meanings are more abstract and general than each of the elements (the northern or the southern words only). Examples of these coordinated compound words are *chậm trễ* (late), *dơ bẩn* (dirty), *kêu gọi* (call), *chăn mền* (blanket).

As can be seen, the coordinated compound word *chậm trễ* (late) includes two *tiếng* (syllables): *chậm* (late) is a northern dialect word and *trễ* (late) is the southern dialect word, and the two components have a coordinated meaning. The coordinated compound words *dơ bẩn* (dirty) includes *dơ* (dirty) which is the southern dialect word and *bẩn* (dirty) which is the northern dialect word, the two components have a coordinated meaning.

The following Tables present some typical examples of the northern-southern dialect coordinated compound words. <Table 1> shows the compound words formed by combining one northern word with one southern word. On the contrary, <Table 2> shows the compound words formed by combining one southern word with one northern word.

<Table 1> Northern and Southern Dialect Coordinated Compound Words

Coordinated compound words = Northern dialect words + Southern dialect words

Northern and Southern dialect coordinated compound words	are combined by	Northern dialect words	plus	Southern dialect words
ô dù (umbrella)	=	ô (umbrella)	+	dù (umbrella)
chăn mền (blanket)	=	chăn (blanket)	+	mền (blanket)
ốm đau (sick)	=	ốm (sick)	+	đau (sick)
chậm trễ (late)	=	chậm (late)	+	trễ (late)
boi lội (to swim)	=	boi (to swim)	+	lội (swim)
thuê mượn (to rent)	=	thuê (to rent)	+	mượn (to rent)

<Table 2> Northern and Southern Dialect Coordinated Compound Words

Coordinated compound words = Southern dialect words + Northern dialect words

Norther-Southern dialect coordinated compound words	are combined by	Southern dialect words	plus	Northern dialect words
chén bát (bowls)	=	chén (bowl)	+	bát (bowl)
ly cốc (glass)	=	ly (glass)	+	cốc (glass)
la mắng (scold)	=	la (scold)	+	mắng (cold)
rảnh rỗi (free)	=	rảnh (free)	+	rỗi (free)
sinh đẻ (to give birth)	=	sinh (to give birth)	+	đẻ (to give birth)
hăm dọa (to threaten)	=	hăm (to threaten)	+	dọa (to threaten)

In Vietnamese, coining the coordinated compound words by combining a northern/southern element with a southern/northern element is a very interesting method. Thus, when teaching these compound words, instructors should introduce and explain to students how these compound words were created, as well as guide students on how to coin a compound word in this manner. This can not only increase students' interest in learning but also help them to memorize these compound words easily. In addition, several supporting techniques such as creating flash cards, using "act it out" games, watching online videos should be applied when teaching these compound words in order to help learners facilitate these expressions acquisitions

V. Tendency of Convergence of Northern and Southern Dialect Expressions into *từ ngữ toàn dân*

Research on the northern and southern dialects shows that there are a large number of the northern/southern dialect expressions that have penetrated into the southern/northern dialect expressions. The following are typical reasons causing this trend.

In Vietnamese history, there were two major migrations (1954 and 1976), in which millions of people moved from the North to the South of Vietnam. In addition, these days, Ho Chi Minh City is one of the most dynamic and developed cities which attracted the northerners to migrate to live and work. As a result, a great number of the northern dialect expressions have been brought to the South.

On the contrary, during the period 1945-1975, many stories and novels written by southern authors in the southern dialect had a significant impact on Vietnamese literature, as well as contributed plenty of the southern dialect expressions to the treasury of northern dialect expressions (Nguyễn Tài Thái and Phạm Văn Hào). These days, Ho Chi Minh City media is abundant and diverse and attracts millions of northern readers and audiences. As a result, a large number of the southern dialect expressions have penetrated to the northern people communities living in the North of Vietnam.

In general, with the development of economy, culture, education, transportation, society and particularly media, the northern and southern dialect expressions have converged and become one part of *từ ngữ toàn dân* (lit. expressions for all the Vietnamese people). In other word, the Vietnamese dialects are in a process of being dissolved and being integrated into one united Vietnamese language (Hoàng Thị Châu 2004).

VI. Conclusion

The northern and southern dialects are two major dialects of Vietnamese. The northern dialect's system of tones, semi-vowels, main vowels, final consonants are corresponding to spellings, whereas the northern dialect's system of the initial consonants are not corresponding to spellings totally (Hoàng Thị Châu 2004). On the contrary, the southern dialect's system of the initial consonants is corresponding to spelling relatively, such as differentiation between

the consonants p [p] and ch [c]; s [ʃ] and x [s], while the southern system of semi-vowels, main vowels, final consonants, and tones is not corresponding to spellings totally. To teach the northern and southern dialect expressions, we highly recommend that teachers should consider the following:

First, teachers need not only to adjust their pronunciation but also to teach articulation to students in accordance with correct spellings, although teachers' native dialects and accents may be of any type of Vietnamese dialect.

Second, while teaching Vietnamese, instructors should gradually introduce and compare differences in vocabularies, phonetics and accents between the two major Vietnamese dialects. In addition, to our knowledge and experience, each VFL/VSL classroom should be taught by two instructors (one after the other). One teacher speaks the Vietnamese northern accent and the other speaks the Vietnamese southern accent. This makes students gradually familiar with the two main Vietnamese dialects and then the students will not be surprised when seeing or hearing these dialects.

Third, like teaching vocabularies, instructors should focus on teaching form, meaning and use of dialect expressions equally. "Form" includes pronunciation and spelling; "meaning" comprises literal and figurative meanings; and "use" includes functional expression or grammar structure, collocation (Wolfram and Schilling-Estes 2015). The application of this teaching method may help learners to facilitate vocabulary acquisition and to avoid making mistakes using synonyms in some contexts because "synonyms with similar meanings do not always have the same collocates" (Webb

2007: 120-136). In addition, supported techniques, games and activities should be applied while teaching the dialect expressions such as using synonym worksheets, synonym matching games, creating flash cards, using online videos that showcase the northern and the southern dialect expressions and accents. This is of great interest and efficiency in helping learners gain these dialect expressions.

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Appendix

Comparison between the Northern and the Southern Dialect Expressions

Northern words	Southern words	Gloss	Northern words	Southern words	Gloss	Northern words	Southern words	Gloss
ăn thua gì	= nhăm nhò gi	no problem	giả như	= phải chi	if, if only	ôm	= bệnh/dầu	sick
ảnh	= hình	picture	giả vờ	= giả bộ, đồ	to pretend	ôm	= ăn	favor
bà ấy	= bà	she	giai/traí	= trai	boy	ông ấy	= ông	he
ba chỉ (thịt)	= ba rọi (thịt)	fat and lean (meat)	giảm	= đạp	to step on	ông xã	= ông bố	exhaust pipe
chửa	= bầu	pregnant	giật	= giật	to snatch	ớt chi thiên	= ớt hiểm	hot red pepper
bà mối	= bà mai	matchmaker	giấu	= ém	to hide	phá phách	= quây	pesky
bà sàm	= bà láp	nonsensical	giơ	= tro	ashes	phải	= mắt	right
bạc	= bực	level	giúp	= giùm	help	phải trái	= phải quây	right and wrong
bạc (màu)	= lợt (màu)	faded	hài lòng	= ưng bụng	satisfied	phanh	= thắng	brake
bẩn	= dơ	dirty	hăm phanh	= đạp thắng	to brake	nói phét	= nói dóc	tell a lie
bận	= mắc việc	busy	háo danh	= hám danh	greedy for fame	phích nước	= bình thủy	thermos
bán buôn	= bán sỉ	wholesale	hắt hơi	= nháy mũi	to sneeze	phó mát	= phô mai	cheese
bán cầu	= bồn cầu	toilet seat	hết sạch	= hết ráo	clean out of	phụ xe	= lơ xe	assistant driver
bản lá	= bản ủi	iron	hồ sinh	= hồ sanh	midwife	phúc	= phước	blessing
bán rong	= bán dao	to peddle	hoa	= bông	flower	phượng	= phụng	phoenix
bánh cuốn	= bánh ướt	steamed rolled rice pancake	hòm	= rương	trunk	quả	= trái	fruit
bánh đa	= bánh tráng	rice pancake	dữ tợn	= bặm tợn	violent	quần đùi	= quần xà lỏn	shorts
bảo	= biểu	to tell	hương	= nhang	incense	quan tài	= cái hòm	coffin
bạo	= dạn	bold	im thin thít	= im re	completely silent	quát	= tác	kumquat
bảo bối	= báu bối	valuable thing	kẹt	= mắc	stick	rách bươm	= rách te tua	tattered
bao tải	= bao bố	sackcloth	kêu	= la	to shout	rám	= nám	sunburnt
bát	= chén	bowl	khập khiêng	= cà thọt	limping	rán	= chiên	to fry
bật (quat)	= mở (quat)	to turn on	khoác lác	= nói dóc	to lie	rắn mắt	= cứng đầu	stubborn
bất đền	= bất thường	compensate	khuyến mãi	= khuyến mãi	to promote	ranh mãnh	= ma lanh	sly
bát nháo	= búa xua	disorderly	kính râm	= kính mát	sunglasses	ráp	= nhám	sand (paper)
bé	= nhỏ	secondary	kỳ quặc	= dị hợm	odd, strange	rau mùi	= rau ngò	coriander
bé tí	= nhỏ xíu	tiny	lạc	= đậu phộng	peanut	rẻ bèo/rẻ ôi	= rẻ rẻ	dirt-cheap
bén	= sắc	sharp	lâm	= mần	to do	rẻ, ngoắt	= queo	to turn
bên ấy	= bên	that side	lâm đóm	= làm dáng	to posture	áo rét	= áo lạnh	sweater
bệnh	= bệnh	sick	lâm già	= làm tới	to dictate one's term	rết (con)	= rít (con)	centipede
bệnh viện	= nhà thương	hospital	lâm mối	= làm mai	to act as a matchmaker	rét buốt	= lạnh công	piercingly cold
béo	= mập	fat	lần	= bận	time	ria	= mí	edge
bí ngô	= bí đỏ/rợ	pumpkin	bảo lãnh	= bảo lĩnh	to act as a	rỏ	= nhỏ	to drip

					guarantee			
bí thư	= bí thư	secretary	ăn cắp	= chộm chia	to steal	rối	= rảnh	free
biển	= bể	sea	lãnh	= lĩnh	to receive	rơi vãi	= rơi rớt	to scatter
bố	= ba	father	lãnh giáo	= lĩnh giáo	receive instructions	đồ róm	= đồ dóm	counterfeit
bỏ	= xẻ	to cut into segments	lãnh vực	= lĩnh vực	field	rỗng	= trống	empty
bố mẹ	= ba má	parents	lén	= lén	act secretly	ruốc	= chà bông	Salted shredded pork
bộc phét	= nói dộc	tell a lie	loãng	= loãng	weak	rượu chè	= nhậu nhẹt	drink
bốc thăm	= bắt thăm	draw lots	lon	= heo	pig	rượu trắng	= rượu đế	rice alcohol
boi	= lội	swim	lông mày	= chân mày	eyebrow	sắc ngọt	= bén ngọt	very sharp
bó	= buri	dig up	vô xe	= lốp xe	tyre	săm lốp	= vô ruột	tyre and tube
bóng	= banh	ball	lót dạ	= dẫn bụng	to have a light meal	sắn	= khoai mì	cassava
bụi tre	= lùm tre	bamboo bush	lừa gạt	= lường gạt	deceive	sắn sật	= sùm sứt	crunchy
buộc	= cột	tie	lười	= nhác	lazy	sang	= sộp	generous
buồn	= nhột	tickling	mặc cả	= trả giá	to bargain	sáng bạch	= sáng bánh	full daylight
buồn cười	= mắc cười	funny	mặc kệ	= thầy kệ	to ignore	say	= xin	drunk
buồn đái	= mắc tiểu	want to pass water	mách	= méc	to sneak	sảy	= trảy	scratched
buồn nôn	= mắc ói	nauseate	màn	= mùng	mosquito net	sẻ	= sót	to divide
bút	= viết	pen	mặn mả	= mặn mòi	passionate	sênh ra	= hờ ra	neglect
anh cả	= anh hai	eldest brother	mắng	= la	scold	seọ	= thẹo	scar
cá quả	= cá lóc	snake – head fish	mãng mò	= rầy la	to scold	sợ	= ngán	scare
ca thần	= ta thần	complain	mang	= rình	to carry	sỏi thân	= san thân	kidney stone
cá voi	= cá ông	whale	mạnh khỏe	= mạnh giỏi	fine	sỏi tiết	= sỏi máu	very angry
cãi cò	= cãi lộn	to quarrel	mắt hân	= mắt tiêu	to lose all	sòn	= ròn	creep
cầu	= quau	furious	máy	= hên	lucky	sòn lòng	= nản chí	discouraged
dâm but	= bông búp	hibiscus	me	= má	mother	suát (ăn)	= phân (ăn)	ration
chăm	= siêng	diligent	mì chính	= bột ngọt	monosodium glutamate	súc sắc	= xỉ ngầu	dice
chân	= chum	foot	mộc nhĩ	= nằm mèo	pezzia	sướng	= khoái	happy
chăn	= mền	blanket	một mình	= mình ên	alone	suýt nữa	= chút nữa	nearly
chẳng nhẽ	= chẳng lẽ	there is no reason why	mùi tây	= ngò gai	parsley	tắc đường	= kẹt xe	traffic jam
chè/trà	= trà	tea	mụn nhọt	= mụn nhọt	pimple	tặc lưỡi	= chặc lưỡi	smack one's tongue
chết đuối	= chết trôi	drown	mùng tuối	= lì xì	to give a new year's present	tài chính	= tài chánh	finance
chiếc bánh mì	= ổ bánh mì	a loaf of bread	muối	= vá	soup ladle	tắm quất	= dấm bóp	to massage
chính	= chánh	main	muộn	= trễ	late	tán gái	= cưa gái	to flirt
chính trị	= chánh trị	politics	mướp đắng	= khổ qua	bitter melon	tán gạo	= tán dóc	to chat
chọc tức	= chọc giận	to anger	na (quả)	= mãng cầu	custard apple	tầng	= lầu	floor
chông	= giường tre	bamboo bed	ná thun	= súng cao su	slingshot	tầng một	= tầng trệt	First floor
chum	= lu	pot	nằm sấp	= nằm úp	to lie face down	tầng lờ	= già lơ	to ignore
có chửa	= mang thai	pregnant	nay mai	= mai một	in the future	tàu hỏa	= xe lửa	train
cô gắng	= ráng	try	nem rán	= chả giò	spring roll	thạch sùng	= thằn lằn	lizard
cổ vũ	= cổ võ	to encourage	nền	= đèn cây	candle	thái dương	= mằng tang	temporal bone

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cốc	= lí/ly	glass	ngã	= té	to fall	thần lẫn	= rần mỗi	black-banded skink
coi (thì)	= gác (thì)	to proctor	ngại	= e	afraid	thạo đời	= sành đời	sophisticated
com rang	= com chiên	fried rice	ngan	= vịt xiêm	muscovy duck	thảo nào	= hèn chi	no wonder
cù	= thọc léc	to tickle	ngán	= ón	be tired of	thật	= thiệt	true
cúc	= nút	button	ngang	= ngừng	lift head	thất lưng	= dầy lưng	belt
cực kỳ	= để sợ	extremely	ngát	= chết giác	to become unconscious	thật thà	= thiệt thà	honest
cúng bái	= cúng quai	offering	ngắt hoa	= bứt hoa	to pick flower	thầy u	= tía má	parents
cuồng	= quýnh	get rattled	ngạt	= ngộp/ngộp	choky	thế à?	= vậy à?	really?
dạ dày	= bao tử	stomach	ngấy	= ón	be fed up with	thếp (giấy)	= tếp (giấy)	quire of paper
trà đặc	= trà đậm	strong tea	nghiên	= ghiền	addicted	thết đãi	= đãi đãi	to banquet
đàn	= đờn	musical instrument	ngին	= ngàn	thousand	thìa	= muỗng	spoon
dân dã	= quê	country field	ngô	= bắp	corn	thịnh	= thanh	prosperous
dàn nguyệt	= đờn kim	Vietnamese two chord guitar	ngô nhỡ	= lỡ	in case of	thóc	= lúa	rice
đánh gió	= cao gió	coin rubbing	ngoài ấy	= ngoài	outdoors	thối	= thúi	bad smell
đánh nhau	= đánh lộn	to fight	ngồi xôm	= ngồi chồm hóm	to squat	thóp	= mó ác	fontanel
đánh rắm	= địt	to fart	nhà táng	= nhà lâu	multistoried house	thừa	= dư	redundant
đào lộn hột	= điều	cashew	nhà xí	= nhà cầu	toilet	thùng	= lũng	hole
đắt	= mắc	expensive	nhai	= nhái	to mimic	thuyền	= ghe	ship
đắt đỏ	= mắc mớ	expensive	nhảm nhẹ	= lảm le	to attempt	thuyền bè	= ghe cộ	boats and rafts
dầu hỏa	= dầu hôi	petroleum	nhân đức	= nhơn đức	humane	tị nạn	= phân bì	to compare enviously
dầu lạc	= dầu phộng	peanut oil	nhấn	= cà rá	ring	phân tích	= phân tách	analyse
dầu nhờn	= nhớt	motor oil	nhạnh	= lanh	fast/quick	tiếc	= uổng	to regret
đay	= bố	jute	nhấp giọng	= đập giọng	to moisten the throat	tiêm thuốc	= chích thuốc	injection
dây chun	= dây thun	elastic	nhật	= nhứt	first	tính	= tánh	personality
dây thép gai	= dây kẽm gai	barbed wire	nhặt	= lượm	to pick up	tôn	= hao	cost
đẻ	= sanh/sinh	to give birth	nhé	= nghe/nghe	(final article) right?	nhuận tràng	= nhuận trường	laxative
đi ngoài	= đi cầu	to stool	nhem nhuốc	= lem luốc	dirty	trêu	= chọc	to tease
đi ở	= ở mướn	to be in somebody's service	nhị	= đờn cô	two string violin	thị trượt	= thi rớt	fail
dính dáng	= mắc mớ	involve in/why?	nhieu	= lung	many	tú bà	= má mi	procuress
đỗ	= đậu	bean	nhịn cười	= nín cười	to suppress a laugh	từ nay	= từ rày	from this time
dở òm	= dở ẹc	very bad	nhờ (đi nhờ)	= ké (đi ké)	hitchhike	tuồng	= hát bội	Vietnamese opera
đồ quý sự	= đồ mắc dịch	damn you	nhộ nhem	= lo lem	smear	ướt sũng	= ướt nhep	dripping wet
dọa	= hăm	to threaten	nhớn nhác	= đớn dác	look around	vàng	= dạ	yes
đổi	= rời	follow	nhựa	= mù	latex tree	vào	= vô	to enter
đón	= rước	pick up	nhựa đường	= hắc ín	tar	váy	= đằm	skirt

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dón khách	= rước khách	pick up guests	nhuyễn	= nhiên	well-kneaded	véo	= nhéo	to pinch
dộp	= rộp	blister	nổi cáu	= nổi quau	get angry	ví dụ	= thí dụ	for example
đứa	= thom	pineapple	nổi lạp	= cả lăm	stammer	tắt	= vớ	sock
đưa chuột	= đưa leo	cucumber	nổi mê	= nổi mớ	talk in one's sleep	vỡ	= bể	to break
đùa giỡn	= cà rờn	joke	nôn, mửa	= ói	vomit	vớ vẩn	= tào lao	nonsensical
đúi	= nhét	to push	nóng lòng	= nôn	anxious	vừng	= mè	sesame
đúm dỏ	= rúm ró	battered	nộp (tiền)	= nạp (tiền)	to pay money	xà bông	= bột giặt	detergent
dúng	= nhúng	to dip	nước bọt	= nước miếng	saliva	xà lòn	= quần đùi	shorts
dùng mỡ	= rùng mỡ	to be stirred up	nước cạn	= nước ròng	low tide	xâu hổ	= mắc cỡ	shy
dút dát	= nhút nhát	timid	nước dùng	= nước lèo	broth	xem ảnh	= coi hình	watch pictures
gáy	= ót	nape of the neck	nuốt chửng	= nuốt trộng	to swallow up	xoan	= sâu đầu (đông)	Chinaberry
gậy	= ốm	thin	ô	= dù	umbrella	xoi	= dùng	eat
gậy dết	= ốm nhách	scraggy	ô mai	= xiu muối	salted dry apricot	xui	= rui	unlucky
ghen ti	= ganh ti	envy	(xe) ô tô	= xe hơi	car			

(2015.10.20. 투고, 2015.11.10. 심사, 2015.11.16 게재확정)

<국문초록>

베트남어 남북 방언과 외국인 학습자에 대한 교육 방법

배 양 수 · 다오 목 덕

베트남에는 크게 북부, 중부, 남부의 방언이 존재한다. 이중에서도 남부와 북부에서는 뜻은 같지만 단어가 다른 동의이음어(同義異音語)와 스펠링은 같지만 의미가 다른 동음이의어(同音異義語)가 있다. 우리가 조사한 바에 따르면, 대체적으로 베트남에서 출판된 사전에서는 남부 방언과 북부 방언을 모두 사전에 등재하고 있어서 외국인 학습자들에게는 그 구별이 쉽지 않다.

우리는 베트남어 대사전에 실린 남북의 방언을 뽑은 다음에 단어 하나 하나를 비교하면서 골라내고, 분류하여 체계화했다. 이런 작업을 통해서 남부의 방언을 정리하여, 베트남어를 습득하려는 한국인에게 그 차이를 쉽게 익히도록 하려는 목적이다.

따라서 우리는 1) 남과 북의 발음 차이로 인한 스펠링이 다른 단어와 2) 외래어를 차용하는 과정에서 남과 북의 차이로 인한 스펠링의 차이 그리고 3) 동음이의어 현상과 4) 남북의 방언을 합하여 복합어가 된 경우로 분류하였다.

이러한 분류를 근거로 외국인에게 베트남어를 가르칠 때 스펠링의 차이가 난 원인과 남북의 발음 차이를 보여 주면 학습자들이 보다 쉽고, 빠르게 익힐 수 있으며, 남북의 방언을 접할 때 당황하지 않게

될 것이다.

또한 남북 방언 비교표를 작성하게 한다. 즉 동음이의어와 동의어
음어로 구분하여 빈 칸 채우기 실습 등을 통해서 습득하도록 하면
보다 효과적인 베트남어 교육이 될 것이다.

주제어: 베트남어, 베트남 북부 방언, 베트남 남부 방언, 베트남어
교육

<Abstract>

The Northern and the Southern Dialect
Expressions of Vietnamese and Teaching Them
to Foreign Learners

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This paper examines northern and southern dialect expressions of Vietnamese and teaching them to foreign learners.

Based on the collection and statistical analyses of these northern and southern expressions in Vietnamese textbooks and teaching materials and documents used at the Faculty of Vietnamese Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies, Korean and The University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and “Vietnamese Dictionary 2010” published by Center of Dictionary Studies, we classify and analysis the characteristics of the northern and southern expressions such as synonyms with different pronunciation and spellings due to phonetic variants, synonyms with different pronunciation and spellings due to borrowing foreign expressions, homonym and northern/southern - southern/northern

compound words.

By doing this, we suggest the application of the results of this study to the teaching of northern - southern dialects to foreign learners. We also provide an appendix that compares the northern and southern expressions that learners can use it in their study of the language.

Key words: Vietnamese Northern Dialect Words, Vietnamese Southern Dialect Words, Teaching Vietnamese for Foreigners, Vietnamese Dialects