

THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH PREPOSITION COLLOCATIONS IN THE VIETNAMESE VERSION OF JOJO MOYES'S NOVEL "ME BEFORE YOU"

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ARTICLE INFO		ABSTRACT
Received:	16/7/2023	The study focused on the translation into Vietnamese of English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) in the English novel "Me Before You" and its Vietnamese version by Tre Publishing House. EPCs were selected as the main data as they are varied in English literary work, and were suggested as one of the challenges for translators. In terms of methodology, the study employed qualitative method employing content analysis to analyze the 108 tokens of EPCs collected in the source text version. Besides, the study used AntConc. software to determine whether the suggested combination words are collocations. The two research questions need to be address in the study relating to the types of EPCs in the novel "Me Before You" and their Vietnamese translations, and the strategies applied by the translators in Vietnamese version. As a result, the study identified Verb-Preposition Collocations (VPCs) were the most extensively used in the source text and Literal Translation was the most used strategy in the Vietnamese version. Furthermore, the seven strategies applied in the Vietnamese version are Literal Translation, Addition, Reduction, Compression, Modulation, Transposition, and Adaption.
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DỊCH THUẬT CỤM GIỚI TỪ TIẾNG ANH TRONG PHIÊN BẢN TIẾNG VIỆT CỦA TIỂU THUYẾT "TRƯỚC NGÀY EM ĐẾN" CỦA JOJO MOYES

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THÔNG TIN BÀI BÁO		TÓM TẮT
Ngày nhận bài:	16/7/2023	Bài nghiên cứu tập trung vào việc dịch thuật các cụm giới từ tiếng Anh (EPCs) sang tiếng Việt trong tiểu thuyết gốc "Trước Ngày Em Đến" và phiên bản tiếng Việt của Nhà xuất bản Trẻ. EPCs được chọn làm dữ liệu do các cụm từ này đa dạng trong văn học Anh, đồng thời cũng trở thành thách thức cho các dịch giả Việt. Phương pháp nghiên cứu trong bài được sử dụng là phương pháp định lượng kết hợp với phân tích nội dung để phân tích 108 cụm giới từ (EPCs) có trong văn bản gốc. Bên cạnh đó, bài nghiên cứu sử dụng phần mềm hỗ trợ AntConc. để xác định những từ đi chung với nhau có phải là cụm từ tiếng Anh không. Có hai câu hỏi nghiên cứu được đặt ra: Một liên quan tới phân loại EPCs tìm thấy trong tiểu thuyết "Trước Ngày Em Đến" và tương đương dịch thuật trong bản tiếng Việt, và hai là các phương pháp dịch thuật được dịch giả ứng dụng trong bản tiếng Việt. Kết quả thống kê được cụm động từ kết hợp giới từ (VPCs) là cụm giới từ được sử dụng nhiều nhất trong văn bản gốc, và phương pháp Dịch nguyên văn là phương pháp phổ biến dịch giả dùng trong phiên bản Việt. Thêm vào đó, có tất cả bảy phương pháp dịch thuật được tìm thấy, bao gồm: Dịch nguyên văn, Dịch thêm, Dịch bớt, Dịch tóm tắt, Dịch biến điệu, Dịch chuyển đổi từ loại, và Dịch thoát ý.
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1. Introduction

Translation is an activity to connect various languages. Therefore, it is indisputable to indicate that translation remains an imperative role in communication for ages. According to Castillo [1], language is reflected in people's utterances and transmits their messages to others through various forms, including spoken, written, and sign language. By bridging linguistic divides, translation can fill gaps in our literature and communication abilities, which are revealed by the comparative analysis of different languages and traditions of thought. In essence, a translation should convey not only the surface-level information but also the cultural context and implicit messages that writers or speakers aim to communicate. Therefore, translation plays a pivotal role in enhancing international understanding and fostering relationships among people.

Literary translation, an art that has evolved over centuries, is a subject of great interest to scholars due to its inherent challenges. Translators must apply precise translation principles or techniques to address these challenges successfully. Landers [2, p. 13] notes that literary translation poses various difficulties in areas such as fluency, accuracy, register, flexibility, style, nuance, and transparency. Thus, many problems have arisen in English to Vietnamese translation because of the differences between the two languages. Precisely, English is known as an inflectional language in which word form and functions are accordingly changed by word order. On the other hand, Vietnamese is an isolating language that shortens morphological, markings, gender, number, or tenses. Collocation is a case in point.

To explain the point, the translation of collocations in literary works can pose significant challenges due to the lack of recognition of linguistic, stylistic, or cultural features during the translation process. As Toury [3] notes, literary translation involves two languages and cultural traditions, each with its norm systems on each level. Therefore, collocations used in literary works may reflect the cultural background of the source language (SL), which should be conveyed to readers in the target language (TL). Sa'eed [4] and Mahmoud [5] agreed that verb phrases which are combinations of a verb and a preposition is the problematic point amongst these collocations as they tend to combine with different prepositions to generate various meanings which depend on contextual conversations. Furthermore, Cao Thi Phuong Dung et al. [6] conducted a corpus-based study on verb-noun and adjective-noun collocations in English textbooks for students from elementary to high school. The findings revealed an increase in collocation frequencies from lower to higher grade levels.

Regarding to translation strategies, Zohre [7] explained that a translator can choose to translate a source language (SL) text literally or employ various strategies for translation. This is the justification to conduct a study of comparison common strategies for translation by renowned theorists such as Viney and Darbelnet (1958), Chesterman (1997). Besides, the study also adapted the strategies by Monah and Albir (2002) (cited in [8]).

Concerning to the collocations in translation, these following studies are exemplified to provide a description of how collocation were performed in different languages: Yusra [9] conducted a thesis that examined the translation of collocations in literary texts from English into Arabic. The findings revealed the prevalence of the calque translation strategy as the most commonly employed approach for translating collocations in literary texts, with certain collocations losing their collocational status in the target text (TT). Additionally, Putri [10] also conducted a thesis that focused on the translation of collocations from English to Indonesian in the renowned fiction "Percy Jackson and the Olympians – the Battle of the Labyrinth." The findings showed the presence of 437 collocations in the ST, with 356 translated collocations and 81 dynamically translated collocations in the TT. The author concluded that literal translation was the primary method employed to translate collocations.

As it can be seen from the mentioned theses in terms of collocations in translation, there are few theses in Vietnam concentrating on translating collocations in literature, while researchers

investigated the use of collocations instead. When considering foreign theses, the focus on English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) or grammatical collocations is overshadowed by the prominence of lexical collocations in the context of professional translation.

The inclusion of English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) in theses, both in foreign countries and Vietnam, is generally not prevalent within the field of published translation. This lack of focus on EPCs poses a potential challenge for future translators, as EPCs are frequently encountered in native English texts. However, a fortunate aspect is that the insights gained from previous theses investigating collocations can be effectively applied to the translation of EPCs.

The study aims to identify two objectives: English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) used in the English novel “Me Before You” in terms of types and frequency, and the translation strategies of EPCs into Vietnamese by the translator. To achieve the two aforementioned objectives, two research questions are formulated as follows:

(1) What are the English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) used in the novel “Me Before You” and what are their Vietnamese translations?

(2) What are the translation strategies of EPCs applied by the translator in the Vietnamese version of the novel “Me Before You”?

2. Theoretical framework and methodology

2.1. English preposition collocations (EPCs)

English preposition collocations which are a combination of a base word (noun/ verb/ adjective) and a preposition can confuse non-native speakers. The present study places particularly emphasis on examining grammatical collocations that incorporate a prepositional component. Specifically, the EPCs types in this study extracted from the classification proposed by Benson et al. [11]. Within the scope of this research, the focus is on classifying preposition collocations into the following four categories:

(1) Noun-Preposition Collocations (NPCs): This category involves collocations formed by a noun and a preposition.

E.g., *to have interest in...*, *to have a weekly report on...*, *to make an impact on...*

(2) Verb-Preposition Collocations (VPCs): This category involves collocations formed by a verb and a preposition.

E.g., *to wait for...*, *to decide on...*, *to agree with/ upon/ to...*, *to talk at/ about...*

(3) Adjective-Preposition Collocations (APCs): This category involves collocations formed by an adjective and a preposition.

E.g., *be fond of...*, *be keen on...*, *be angry with...*

(4) Preposition-Noun Collocations (PNCs): This category involves collocations formed by a preposition and a noun

E.g., *by accident*, *to/ in the hospital*, *on Earth*, *on-demand*.

2.2. Translation strategies for EPCs

To further enhance the analysis, seven suggested translation strategies are applied based on the identified Vietnamese equivalents. These strategies aim to provide insights into the translation choices made for the EPCs and their impact on conveying the intended meaning in the target language. They mainly adapted from strategies of the aforementioned theorists such as Chesterman [12], Newmark [13], and Monah and Albir (2002) (cited in [8]) whose strategies were adapted and edited from Viney and Darbelnet's model [14]. To sum up, the translation strategies for EPCs adapted from these theorists in this study are differentiated into 7 main types:

(1) Literal translation: This is an upgrade of word-by-word translation as the authors mentioned different structures in both languages. In other words, these translations can be easily found in a bilingual dictionary.

(2) Addition (explanation/ paraphrase/ linguistic addition): The strategy is described in the aforementioned theories simultaneously as the translation equivalent has more words compared to the original collocation. In this thesis, the strategy is divided into three smaller due to the translator's different purposes: The first type is named "explanation" as detailed information which is not in the original version was added to explain the plot or make the context became easily understood. The second type is "paraphrase" which happened when a word or phrase is difficult to look up its Vietnamese meaning resulting from the lack of an equivalent or the establish equivalent is fail to express information fully, that is the reason why a translator paraphrased the undefined meaning collocations into a longer text. The third type is "linguistic addition" which is derived mainly from the linguistic amplification of Monah and Albir's strategies [14]. The type is the way to add one or more words into the translation version to make it more acceptable to Vietnamese readers while the original meaning is less changed in the comparison with two other addition strategies.

(3) Reduction: The strategy in this study is distinguished into two smaller types: Full reduction and linguistic reduction. The former happens when translators ignore the collocation during translating process while the latter is driven by one of the linguistic elements in EPCs and is reduced to keep the flow of text in the TL. Concerning linguistic reduction, the study provides two smaller types according to the result of the collocation analysis and the Vietnamese equivalent. The two subtypes of this strategy are preposition reduction and tense reduction.

(4) Compression/ summary: This is a type of reduction adapted from Monah and Albir [14] as words are reduced or summarized in the TL version when there is no acceptable equivalent found or the translator tries to avoid the paraphrase strategy to maintain the coherence of the text by providing the overall meaning of the collocation.

(5) Modulation: The strategy employs different words or expressions to express the same idea in both SL and TL. Within this study, the Modulation was applied when the translator realized that the Establish Equivalent no longer fixes the context. Therefore, several techniques were arisen such as synonymy, antonymy, or a word/ phrase which includes irrelevant meaning can be used as a replacement.

(6) Transposition: the strategy involves the rearrangement of grammatical structures, word orders, or word class in order to address disparities between the SL and TL texts. This approach was motivated by either the uncommon usage of certain linguistic elements in the TL or the translator's intention to ensure the coherence and stylistic alignment of the SL text. Within this strategy, the translator aimed to modify the structural aspects of the EPCs while preserving the overall meaning and conveying the intended message effectively in the TL.

(7) Adaption: The translator tried to localize the EPCs or rewrites them to accommodate differences in culture and Vietnamese context.

3. Research methodology

3.1. Research design

The current study applied the qualitative method in using and content analysis in terms of comparative and contrast approaches to obtain and evaluate data.

3.2. Sample and sampling procedures

The data utilized in this study consist exclusively of English preposition collocations (EPCs) extracted from the novel "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes and its corresponding Vietnamese translation. The selection of this material is motivated by the fact that it is authored by a well-known English writer renowned for her contributions to the romantic genre. Consequently, the EPCs quoted within the novel can be considered commonly employed by native English speakers. With a total word count of 137,398 distributed across 409 pages, the novel encompasses a prologue, 27 main chapters, and an epilogue.

The sample for this study comprised a total of 108 English preposition collocations (EPCs) extracted from the prologue and the first five chapters of the novel. The key justification to minimize the sample selection was attributed to the scope of the study following a M.A. thesis. Therefore, all selective chapters were manageable within 57 pages and were chosen for convenience sampling.

3.3. Data collection procedures

In this study, AntConc was employed as the primary tool for analyzing collocational combinations consisting of a base word and a preposition. AntConc was chosen for its versatility, cost-effectiveness, and reputation as a reliable software for corpus analysis. Developed by Laurence Anthony, a well-known professor at Waseda University in Japan, AntConc has been widely utilized in previous research studies examining various linguistic phenomena.

To analyze the data, the researcher imported text files as the original novel's pdf version by choosing File and tab Open File (s) as "Quick Corpus" on AntConc's toolbar. After importing the main corpus, the next step of the procedure would be carried out: EPCs sketching. The collocations in AntConc can be sorted by the score of frequency, and likelihood.

3.4. Data analysis procedures

In order to answer the two research questions, the analysis procedure of this study is essential, and it involves these steps: Firstly, 108 EPCs were categorized into four types based on the structure of the word sequences, namely NPCs, VPCs, PNCs, and APCs. This step aimed to identify word sequences and sentences in the original novel, and the most frequent EPCs were suggested.

Secondly, the Vietnamese equivalent for these EPCs was selected from the Vietnamese version. Each translation text was arranged especially under the original sentence to show differences or similarities of both EPCs and their equivalent in both texts.

Finally, according to the equivalent, the 7 strategies previously suggested in section 2 were applied in order to explore how EPCs were translated in the Vietnamese version, in other words, the final step primarily focuses to address the second research question. Precisely, these strategies were named: Literal Translation, Addition (Explanation, Paraphrase, Linguistic Addition), Reduction (Full Reduction, Linguistic Reduction), Compression, Modulation, Transposition, and Adaption according to renowned theories by Chesterman [13], Newmark [5], Monah and Albir [14].

4. Results

4.1. English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) in the novel "Me Before You".

The first sub-section attempted to discover types and frequency of EPCs existed in the SL texts of the novel "Me Before You". The primary dataset consisted 108 EPCs that were extracted from the original texts [15]. In this particular sub-section, a qualitative approach was employed to gather and categorize the EPCs into their respective types, namely VPCs (Verb-Preposition Collocations), NPCs (Noun-Preposition Collocations), APCs (Adjective-Preposition Collocations), and PNCs (Preposition-Noun Collocations).

For the summarized data, table 1 presented the statistical numbers pertaining to EPCs and types of EPCs encompassing VPCs, NPCs, APCs, and PNCs. Overall, the statistic showed that VPCs took the largest percentage in comparison with other types of EPCs.

Table 1. EPCs and types of EPCs in total

	EPCs in total	VPCs	NPCs	APCs	PNCs
N	108	91	3	8	6
Percentage (%)	100	84	2.7	7.4	5.5

The analysis of table 1 reveals that Verb-Preposition Collocation (VPCs) occupied the dominant share of the proportion, comprising approximate 84 percent of the total EPCs, with a counted number of 91 out of 108.

(1) So I'll pop in at lunchtime [15, p. 37].

(2) Try to cheer him up a little [15, p. 39].

Conversely, the Noun-Preposition Collocations (NPCs) are significantly prevalent, constituted mere 2.7 percent considered the lowest frequently-used type by the author in the original work.

(3) "Short for Louisa" [15, p. 36].

(4) Very hard to get time off [15, p. 55].

Furthermore, the data of Adjective-Preposition Collocations (APCs) and Preposition-Noun Collocations (PNCs) are presented by 8 and 6 items approximately accounted 7.4 percent and 5.5 percent of the EPCs respectively. These statistical data provide additional insights into the distribution of EPCs types. The example 5 and 6 illustrated the APCs extracted.

(5) I'm not afraid of hard work [15, p. 26].

(6) I was legendarily bad at caring for things [15, p. 31].

And the example 7 and 8 described the PNCs in the original novels.

(7) It's all a bit up in the air at the moment [15, p. 2].

(8) He was quiet by nature [15, p. 11].

Finally, the summary of the main data was re-presented in figure 1.

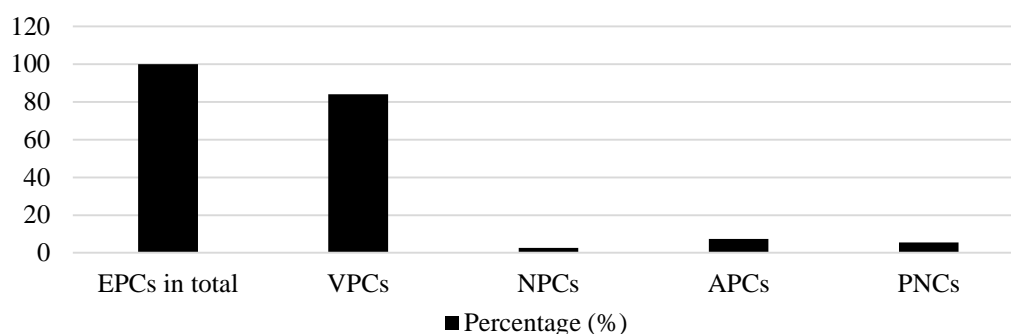


Figure 1. EPCs and types of EPCs in total

4.2. EPCs' translation strategies applied in the Vietnamese version

The sub-section mainly describes the figures for how many Vietnamese equivalents of EPCs applied each of 7 translation strategies in the Vietnamese version "Trước ngày em đến". In this part, the 108 Vietnamese equivalents were distributed into the seven translation strategies. Overall, the Vietnamese version of EPCs are vividly demonstrated in table 2.

Table 2. The figures for EPCs and their equivalent in translation strategies

N	VPCs	NPCs	APCs	PNCs	Total	(%)
Literal Translation	38	2	4	2	45	42
Addition	11	0	1	1	13	12
Reduction	10	1	2	1	14	13
Compression	6	0	0	0	6	5
Modulation	16	0	1	0	17	16
Transposition	3	0	0	0	3	3
Adaption	8	0	0	2	10	9
Total	91	3	8	6	108	100

Table 2 presents a comprehensive breakdown of English Preposition Collocations (EPCs) distributed among seven distinct translation strategies. The dominant strategy, as indicated by the data, is the Literal Translation, which accounts for a total of 45 items. Within the strategy particularly, the highest number of EPCs is witnessed in the VPCs category corresponding to 38 items. Moreover, there are 4 items classified as APCs, while the NPCs and PNCs equally consist of 2 items.

According to the Modulation strategy, the EPCs are predominantly distributed within the VPCs classification, comprising 16 out of the total 17 items, while the remaining item is seen in the APCs type. Conversely, the presence of Modulation strategy is not observed in other EPCs types, such as NPCs and PNCs, which can be attributed to their limited representation in this table. Additionally, the Reduction strategy showcases a comparable distribution pattern, with 10 items classified as VPCs. However, in this strategy, the items are distributed across all EPCs categories, with 1 item in NPCs, 2 items in APCs, and 1 item in PNCs. Moving on to the fourth-largest share in table 2, the Addition strategy demonstrates a similar pattern, with VPCs accounting for the majority of the 13 items, encompassing 11 out of 13. The remaining two items are equally distributed between APCs and PNCs, with one item for each category.

On the other hand, Compression exhibits a very low count with 5 items, followed by Transposition accounting the lowest numbers of discovered EPCs (3) in this study. Furthermore, number of EPCs is attributed to the Adaption strategy, comprising a total of 10 items. Specifically, VPCs account for 8 out of 10 items, followed by NPCs with only 2 items. Moreover, the second lowest numbers of EPCs belong to the Adaption with 10 items in total. Precisely, The VPCs occupied 8 out of 10, following by PNCs with only 2 items. In the end of this section, the statistical data of EPCs distributed into seven strategies is simplistically re-demonstrated in figure 2.

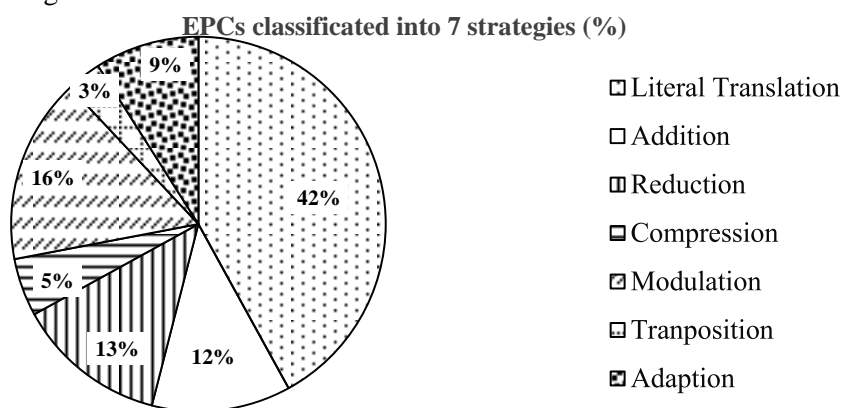


Figure 2. *The distribution of EPCs into 7 strategies*

5. Conclusion

According to the results of the study, the Verb-Preposition Collocations (VPCs) were presented as the most frequently-used EPCs with 45 out of 108 items in total. It is apparent that VPCs occupies a lion share in daily linguistic use of native-speakers, as the used of VPCs or verb phrases are attributed to the informal style of writing in the original novel as the narrative was written from an ordinary girl's viewpoint, Louisa – the main character in the novel. Additionally, the other EPCs were distributed into APCs, NPCs with 8, and 6 items respectively and took a neglective number. Significantly, the NPCs contributed very few presences with only 3 tokens out of 108 EPCs in total.

Additionally, the feasible strategies suggested in the second section were distributed in all types of EPCs. Amongst strategies, Literal Translation accounted the highest proportion of 42% with 45 items in total. Within the Literal Translation, VPCs was on top with 38 items. The justified reason for the most used of Literal Translation is that the popularity of verb phrases or VPCs in bilingual dictionaries can help the translator find the exact meaning of the phrases. The opposite pattern happened with Transposition (3 items) which can be explained that the translator did not want to change the informal style of the author which expressed how English speaker said in a daily conversation.

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