THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LANGUAGE OF EVALUATION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE SPOKEN DISCOURSE

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Declaration

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or award.

I also declare that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

Thu Thi Bich Ngo



29th October, 2013

I would like to dedicate this thesis with deepest gratitude and love to my principal supervisor, Professor Leonard Charles Unsworth, and to my Mum and Dad.

To Len, Mum and Dad:

"*…Did you ever know that you're my hero,*
And everything I'd like to be?
I could fly higher than an eagle
With you as the wind beneath my wings…"

(Cited from "Wind beneath my wings" -1982 by Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley)

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Abstract

This thesis aims to examine differences in the deployment of Appraisal resources, focusing on Attitude and Graduation, by Vietnamese graduate students in Australia when participating in Vietnamese and English semi-casual oral discussions of popular topics relating to their experience living and studying in Australia as well as their opinions about their professional standing in Vietnam. The study employed the Appraisal framework developed by Martin and White (2005) and other authors as the coding scheme and the UAM Corpus Tool developed by Michael O'Donnell (2008) as a computerised linguistics annotation tool.

The study found that the deployment of Attitude and Graduation resources by the Vietnamese students in the two corpora differed slightly in terms of the proportions of Attitude and Graduation deployed, but remarkably in the range of realisations of Attitude and Graduation. The deployment of Attitude and Graduation in the English discussions was marked with the use of a limited range of lexical instantiations (with mostly non-figurative core meaning and high frequency expressions) and grammatical realisations of Attitude (with a restricted range of deployment of functions and forms) and dominant use of isolated grammatical items for Graduation. What is also notable about the deployment of Attitude and Graduation in the English discussions is the non-standard and ineffective English expressions of Attitude and Graduation due to various grammar and word choice issues. In contrast, the deployment of Attitude and Graduation in the Vietnamese discussions was very diverse with frequent utilisation of figurative and non-core lexical instantiations and a variety realisations (from the perspectives of function and form) for Attitude and a rich source of figurative language and semantic infusion for Graduation. The research findings also demonstrated distinctive Attitude and Graduation resources in the Vietnamese language including the modality particles, person reference terms, categorisers, reduplicatives and compound words.

In addition to providing an insight into the differences in the deployment of Attitude and Graduation resources in the two languages, the research findings also contribute to the refinement of the theorisation of the Appraisal framework in English with a more delicate extension of certain Attitude types, and provides an evidential basis for the adjustment of the current Appraisal framework to accommodate the distinctive features of languages other than English. In addition to the theoretical contributions, the study has important practical

implications in terms of English and Vietnamese language teaching and assessment, English and Vietnamese interpreting and translation, as well as the application of Appraisal to online dictionary to quickly identify and respond to emergency requests on online social networks.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms

EFL	English as a Foreign Language
EAL/D	English as an Additional Dialect/Language
ELICOS	English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students
TESOL	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
L1	First Language
L2	Second or Additional Language
SFL	Systemic Functional Linguistics

Appraisal coding abbreviation keys

-ve	Negative
+ve	Positive
Aff	Affect
Jud	Judgement
Appre	Appreciation

Grammatical realisation abbreviation keys-Functions

Gen	General
Spec	Specific
Par	Participant
Pro	Process
Cir	Circumstance
Attrib	Attribute
Possess	Possessive
Phenom	Phenomenon
Relat	Relational
Behav	Behavioural

Grammatical realisation abbreviation keys-Forms

N	Noun
NG	Noun group
V	Verb
Auxi V	Auxiliary verb
VG	Verb group
Adj	Adjective
Adv	Adverb
Pre.	Preposition

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