

A STUDY ON SOME SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF GREETINGS IN AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE

NGHIÊN CỨU MỘT SỐ ĐẶC ĐIỂM TƯƠNG ĐỒNG VÀ KHÁC BIỆT LỜI CHÀO HỎI CỦA NGƯỜI MỸ VÀ NGƯỜI VIỆT

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ABSTRACT: *Greeting is not only a simple communication ritual but also a measure of each individual's level of behavior. Greeting - a characteristic of Vietnamese and American culture as well. Greeting is a form of conversation in social communication by using words or gestures to show respect, reverence and closeness towards others. Greeting is also used to show respect before the noble and sacred. The article mentions some common greetings of the Vietnamese and Americans in daily life and points out the similarities and differences in the greetings of the two ethnic groups stemming from cultural and cultural factors and customs.*

Keywords: *The greeting in American and Vietnamese, similarities, differences.*

TÓM TẮT: *Chào hỏi không chỉ là nghi thức giao tiếp đơn thuần mà còn là thước đo mức độ ứng xử của mỗi cá nhân. Chào hỏi - một nét đặc trưng của văn hóa của người Việt với văn hóa của người Mỹ. Chào hỏi là một hình thức hội thoại trong giao tiếp xã hội với việc sử dụng lời nói hoặc cử chỉ để thể hiện sự tôn trọng, cung kính và gần gũi với người khác. Chào hỏi cũng được dùng để thể hiện sự tôn kính trước những gì cao quý, thiêng liêng. Bài viết đề cập đến một số cách chào hỏi thông dụng của người Việt và người Mỹ trong cuộc sống thường nhật và chỉ ra những tương đồng và dị biệt trong cách chào hỏi của hai dân tộc bắt nguồn từ những yếu tố về văn hóa và phong tục tập quán.*

Từ khóa: *Chào hỏi của người Việt và người Mỹ, tương đồng, dị biệt.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most advanced and important means of human communication. Through language, someone can exchange information and establish relationships, perform the act of greetings people around. Speech etiquette includes greetings, acquaintances, farewells, thanks, apologies, and invitations between the participants in the communication. This function is most evident in greetings. It can be affirmed that greeting is the first etiquette, the minimum politeness of each individual when

participating in communication.

Greeting is not only a simple communication ritual but also a measure of each individual's level of behavior. Greeting is not only a simple communication ritual but also a measure of each individual's level of behavior. Greeting - a characteristic of Vietnamese and American culture as well. Greeting is a form of conversation in social communication. It includes both greetings and questions. Greeting is the use of words or gestures to show respect, reverence and closeness towards others. Greeting is also

used to show respect before the noble and sacred.

2. CONTENT

2.1. Definition

2.1.1. *The concepts of speech acts*

J. Austin (1962) in his research “How to do things with words” was the first to put forward the theory of language behavior, that in order to perform a linguistic act, saying something must be accompanied by doing something, i.e having to affect something in reality [5]. Speech acts as the spokesperson been made to cater to the communication functions. For instance, we performed an act of language when we want to make an apology, a greeting, an invitation, or a complaint... Speech acts can be expressed only by a word like “Sorry!” to indicate the act of apologizing, can be a statement like “We're having some people over Saturday evening and wanted to know if you'd like to join us.” Can show inviting behavior, or “morning!” to show the act of greeting.

2.1.2 *Greeting as a speech act*

Nguyen Nhu Y [1] in Vietnamese language dictionary defines the word “greeting” as “Chào có nghĩa là nói ra hoặc ra hiệu bằng các cử chỉ, tỏ lòng kính trọng, thái độ thân thiết”

According to the Cambridge dictionary, the word “greeting” has some meanings, I think that the most popular meaning is associated with our daily life. “Greeting” is “something friendly or polite that you say or do when you meet or welcome someone.” [4]

According to the definition and the theory of Austin (1962) - the founder of the speech act theory classified greeting in the behavioral class (behavitive). It is verbal

behavior that includes social behavior such as thank you, apologize, and congratulate [5], greeting is an action in which speaker 1 (SP1) and the speaker 2 (SP2) have a mutual effect based on the linguistic factors; so that the act of greeting can get the best effectiveness.

Ex: 1. They briskly exchanged greeting before starting the meeting. [4]

(Họ vui vẻ chào nhau trước khi bắt đầu cuộc họp)

2. She nodded her head in greeting. [4]

(Cô ấy gật đầu chào.)

2.2. Methodology

The study is mainly researched according to the following main methods:

1. Linguistic statistics: This method is used to collect and summarize speech acts of greetings in American and Vietnamese.

2. Analytical method: The sample acts of greeting in American and Vietnamese are analyzed to find out their typical characteristics.

3. Comparative method: Based on the analyzed and described results, the author compares the similarities and differences between the act of greeting in America and Vietnamese in the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspects.

2.3. Some significant greetings associated with daily life in Vietnam and America

2.3.1. *Greeting in America:*

In America, there are many ways people often use to greet each other, but there are some typical ways we often greet together with:

- The handshake is the typical American greeting. As an American, I was taught as a wee little one how to introduce myself to someone.



Picture 1. Shake hands in greeting in America

During business meetings, social gatherings and every other situation, handshakes are exchanged like boxes of chocolate on Valentine's Day.

It's a polite way to introduce yourself while still maintaining a certain amount of space. As Americans, after all, we value our personal bubble.

- Hug: Americans aren't so cold that we don't occasionally give one another a

hug. This is usually reserved for greetings between female friends and family members. It's rare that you will see two males hugging unless a handshake turns into a hug with a pat on the back

- First pump: A common greeting between male friends is the first pump. Although the fist pump is most common among teenage boys, I've recently witnessed grown men do it as well.



Picture 2. Pump in greeting in America

- Kiss: We're not talking about the quick peck on the cheek here, but a kiss on the lips. This, of course, is a traditional

greeting between couples - those who are dating or are married.



Picture 3. Kiss in greeting in America

2.3.2. Greeting in Vietnam

Vietnamese only use smile, bow or shake hands in business to greet each other.

These gestures become a good tradition of Vietnamese because people are respectful and discreet.

Smile: Smiles in greeting are a positive form of nonverbal communication and often say more than we say. A smile in communication is a way to contain a lot of information and express a positive emotion

for them and for others.

At the office, in some meetings, meetings, receptions... a smile that is appropriate to the situation, at the right time, to the right audience when giving a speech or exchanging work, will create attractiveness in communication. information, without losing the seriousness of the meeting, but still showing the culture of listening and understanding together towards the common goal.



Picture 4. Smile in greeting in Vietnam

Shaking hands: It can be said that shaking hands is a basic ritual in communication - an important first step for a communication, building a professional communication style, and showing your respect for the object communicate. Shaking hands is an important ritual of communication. It is not simply a greeting, but it is also used in many different, showing your respect for the object. communicate. Shaking hands is an important ritual of communication. It is not simply a greeting, but it is also used in

many different

Ways to express affection (honesty, friendliness or superficiality) expressed through a firm or loose handshake, the manner in which handshake, short or long...)

- Hug: Hugging is a nonverbal act of expressing positive emotions: friendship, affection, politeness, greeting or parting. People often embrace and kiss each other's cheeks, or embrace and put their arms around each other's necks, but only with people who are close and of the same age.



Picture 5. Hug in greeting in Vietnam

2.3.3. Greeting on some formal situations in America

“Good morning, sir/madam”

In America, “sir” or “madam” is often used in a formal greeting. It has the effect of magnifying the importance and status of the person you are talking to. So do you know, in what situations do you often hear that greeting? One of the most familiar

situations

Is in the service industry. For example, a hotel receptionist greets guests who come to make a reservation, a waiter talks to a customer in a restaurant, or we can also meet that greeting in a store when we clerk addresses the customer.

The above situation reminds us of greetings when we meet someone very

important (VIP). It could be a politician or an important leader. In some other cases, American people use the above sentence to greet someone who is older than themselves because it is a sign of respect. Or sometimes, you also hear this greeting at work, when an employee wants to show respect to his superior. Therefore, you can understand why only the employee uses “sir” in the greeting and the director does not [6].

2.4. Some similarities and differences in Vietnamese and American greeting

2.4.1. Some similarities in Vietnamese and American greeting

In both countries, they often use the form of a question in informal situations:

A: Anh đi đâu đấy?”

B: À, tôi đi đằng này một lát.

In America, they often say when they meet each other:

A: Hi, How's it going?

B: Oh, this is my worst day.

Vietnamese people often these phrases when they want to begin a conversation:

As we know, the greeting is normally accompanied with a gesture: kissing, hugging, or shaking hands are quite popular in America. Similarly, Vietnamese people use lots of body language, gestures and even intonation.

Language of greeting is the most popular language in both countries and people use it very often whenever they meet.

The greeting often conveys information about the cultural characteristics, and regional rules of the countries. We can know something about the relationships, and social status of the greeters [2, 3].

2.4.2. Some differences in Vietnamese and American greeting

Greeting	American	Vietnamese
Greeting on the runs	A: Hi! Hello! B: Hey you	A: Bạn đang đi đâu đấy? B: Ôi Lan. Tớ đang định tìm cậu nữa chứ.
Speedy greeting	A: Hi! How have you been? B: Not bad. N' you? A: Oh, can't complain. Busy B: I know. Me, too A: Oh, well, gotta take off. See ya B: Bye. Take care	A: Where are you going? B: Play football. A: Do you complete homework? B: I will do it at night. A: OK
The chat	A: Hi! B: Hi! A: Howa ya doing? B: All right. Pretty good! A: Wow! That's great. B: Look! See you later. A: Ok. Bye	A: Ê đi đâu đó? B: Đá bóng. A: Khi nào bạn đến công ty? B: Um.Tớ chưa có kế hoạch. A: Tớ tới nay đến. B: OK!

The long greeting	A: Hi! Steven B: Howa doing, John? A: Okay. B: What's happening? A: Uh...vacation was very good. B: Oh, yeah. Where'd you go? A: Uhm, hiking B: Lucky you? B: I stay at home. Very bored. There is nothing to do A: Oh, I know A: Oh, yeah. And	A: Lan. Cậu khỏe không? B: Lâu lắm không gặp, tớ không khỏe lắm. A: Chắc là do thời tiết. B: Tớ cũng nghĩ vậy. A: Hôm qua cậu có đi chùa không? B: Có, tớ đi chùa với con trai. A: Còn tớ phải đi công ty. Hẹn gặp cậu sau nhé. B: Bye.
The intimate greeting	A: Well? B: Yes! A: Great. What did you do today?	A: Tình hình thế nào? B: Dưới 80%.
The introducto-ry greeting	A: Great party. B: Yeah C: The food is terrific. D: Good. It is nice to see the sunset at last A: Yeah!	A: Bạn quen chú rể không? B: Chúng tôi là bạn thân.
The all-business greeting	A: Ah, hello Ms Smith. You wanted to see me? B: Yes. Come in. How are you? A: Fine, thank you. How are you? B: Fine. Have a seat	A: Chị gọi em à? B: Chào Lan, mời vào.
The re-greeting	A: Peter, feel better? B:.....	A: Hey guy. B: Hey

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, greeting is a way of social communication, aims to maintain a close relationship, solidarity and mutual affection between people in a collective or community. Greeting shows respect for others. Appreciation for others immediately shows greetings. It helps us to clearly define each person's position in communication. Greeting is a means to establish and maintain social relationships.

From there, carry out communication activities properly, effectively and properly. Greeting is a socially significant event in universal terms. To a certain extent, American has some similarities to Vietnamese. However, they are different from topic communication or responding greetings.

There are some topics which are forbidden in American but are use commonly in Vietnamese.

Although they are different, they presented typical features of each country. Therefore, preserving greeting culture plays an

important role in modern life because it helps human beings develop social relationships.

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