

Left Dislocation and Right Dislocation in English versus Vietnamese Equivalent in some English and Vietnamese Short Stories from 1990 until now

Nguyen Hai Quynh¹, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Mai²

¹(Faculty of Languages and Cultures, Thai Nguyen University of Sciences, Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam)

²(Quang Trung Secondary School, Yen Bai City, Yen Bai Province, Vietnam)

Abstract: This paper is carried out to investigate the similarities and differences in the use of Left dislocation and Right dislocation in English and Vietnamese short stories. The analytical data is collected from ten English and ten Vietnamese short stories from 1990 until now. In the research, Left dislocation and Right dislocation in English is compared and contrasted with Vietnamese equivalents in terms of their structure and function. The result of the research shows that there are similarities and differences in the use of these constructions in English and Vietnamese short stories. The most prominent similarity in the use of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories is that in terms of structure, these constructions can be realized by a Noun phrase moved leftward or rightward is coreferential with a resumptive pronoun in the same sentence. And the most significant difference is that LD realized in English short stories can perform the function of contrasting while Vietnamese LD does not. On the other hand, Vietnamese RD can function to focus whereas English RD does not.

Key Words: Different Order, Canonical and Non-canonical structures, Sentence Structures and Sentence Elements

Date of Submission: 09-04-2023

Date of Acceptance: 24-04-2023

I. Introduction

One of the key questions to be solved by reader/ listener when confronted with a sentence is to determine “who did what to whom”. To this end, the reader/listener must be able to unambiguously identify the different constituents of a sentence in order to assign thematic and syntactic roles. Interestingly, different languages draw on different sources of information for role assignment. Mac Whinney et al (1984) have shown that while Italian subjects used agreement information as the most important cue, English subjects rely primarily on word order.

In linguistics, word order is to the study of the order of the syntactic constituents of a language, and each language may employ a different order. The connection between word orders in different languages is of interest to linguistics. They found that among natural languages with a word order preference, SVO is the second most common order by number of known languages, after SOV, including English.

However, English speakers are provided with a variety of non-canonical syntactic means for expressing a given proposition. “*Although these non-canonical-word-order utterances may be truth-conditionally equivalent to the corresponding canonical variant, they differ in their relationship to the discourse context*”. (Birner, 1994)

The interaction between structures and functions has been an interesting and inspiring topic for many past scholars, who have already done a number of researches on it. They have studied, for instance, the functions of different moods, different interrogative forms and so on and so forth. However, studies on dislocated structures, which we refer to as non-canonical constructions here, are relative few. These non-canonical constructions are, however, quite common found in colloquial usages as they seem to serve a wide range of functions. The present study is thus interested in systematically studying the structural and functional features of two specific non-canonical constructions, namely left dislocation (LD) and right dislocation (RD) in English and Vietnamese.

The study aims at investigating the use of Left dislocation and Right dislocation in English and in Vietnamese short stories in term of their structure and function. In addition, its purpose is working out the similarities and differences in the use of these two constructions as revealed in some English and Vietnamese short stories in term of their structure and function.

II. Theoretical Background

1. Review of previous studies related to the research area

There have been a fair number of researches that have been done preliminarily on LD and RD. Among the pre-eminent authors who discuss LD in great details are Lambrecht (1984, 2001); Prince (1981, 1992, 1998); Ward and Birner (2001); and Tizón-Couto (2012). Discussions about RD can be found in Rodman (1998);

Lambrecht (1984); Ward and Birner (2001); Grosz and Ziv (1998). And The research on LD and RD in English carried out by European scholars up to now can be considered thorough and deep.

In Vietnamese, there have been a few studies on the dislocation constructions which can be found in Nguyen Kim Than (1997); Diep Quang Ban (2004); Nguyen Huu Quynh (2001); Nguyen Lan Trung (2009); Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen (2011). Although there are a lot of researches related to other noncanonical constructions in Vietnamese in comparison with English, such as passive voice (Thuy, 2006), Fronting (Anh, 2011), Information packaging constructions i.e. Inversion, Cleft, Existential, Extraposition (Nhat, 2013); a contrastive study of dislocations between English and Vietnamese has not been carried out yet. As a result, the author would like to carry out a study on this matter to fill this gap as well as provide language learners an overview of the differences and similarities in the use of left and right dislocations in English and Vietnamese short stories in term of their structure and function.

2. Canonical and Non-canonical structures

Accordingly, Constructions in English beginning with a grammatical subject are canonical constructions (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2004; Quirk et al, 1985). Quirk et al (1985:721) classified the canonical structures into seven types: SV, SVC, SVO, SVA, SVOO, SVOC, and SVOA.

On the other hand, Non canonical constructions are those which do not begin with a grammatical subject except for conversing.

3. Left dislocation in English

3.1. Definition of LD

According to Lambrecht (2001), left dislocation is defined as “*a sentence structure in which a referential constituent which could function as an argument or adjunct within a predicate-argument structure occurs instead outside the boundaries of the clause containing the predicate to its left*”.

E.g. My father, he's Armenian, and my mother, she's Greek. (Ross 1967:6.129)

3.2. Realizations

LD is often mistaken as pre-posing due to the fact that an item is preposed i.e. moved leftwards in the construction. However, the differences related to structure and functions of the two constructions are indicated in the studies conducted by Ward and Birner (2001), Erteschic-Shir (2007) , and Prince (1997) pointed out as following:

Regarding to the structure, the canonical position of the item is left unoccupied in pre-posing whereas a resumptive coreferential pronominal element appears in the marked constituent's canonical position in left-dislocation.

Regarding to the intonation, Douglas (2004) stated that left dislocation has a falling intonation in the main clause whereas topicalization has a slight rise at the end of it.

3.3. Structural features

LD is generally identified by the presence of a referential constituent that could function as an argument or adjunct within the predicate-argument structure of the clause but, instead, occurs outside the left-peripheral boundaries of the clause containing the predicate.

Typical left dislocated element is usually taken on by a noun phrase. And according to Lambrecht (2001:1061), noun phrases are “*by far the most commonly found category of left-dislocated in the world languages.*”

In addition to this common type, there is a variety of left-dislocations in language in the world, such as: adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, infinitive verb phrase, and clausal units

3.4. Functional features

Many discursal analyses of English LD constructions have been proposed and most involved the notion of 'topic', either introducing a new topic or marking a topic.

Barnes (1985) provides a detailed study of the functions of LD in Spoken Standard French. He indicates the contexts the pragmatic factors motivating the use of LD in various discourse contexts, as follows:

First, there are contexts in which the referent has just been mentioned (usually as an object). The use of LD in these contexts serves to mark the textually evoked referent as a discourse topic.

Second, LD serves to mark a shift in attention the contexts in which the referent is one of two or more given discourse topics.

Third, referents that possessed the status of DT in a remote part of the discourse but has since lost its status. The use of LD therefore serves to reintroduce the earlier topic.

Lastly are referents which are not only evoked as discourse topic, but are also given. Barnes explains the use of LD in these particular contexts “*gives special emphasis to an entity already under discussion*” (Lambrecht, 1984).

Prince's (1992) studies of LD are backed by strong empirical evidence. She tried to show that no single function can account for all the LD data in English. She claims that LD has at least three different functions as follows:

Simplifying Discourse Processing- 'Simplifying' LDs: simplifying the processing of discourse-new entities by

removing them from syntactic positions which are disfavored for discourse-new entities and creating a separate processing unit for them.

*'It's supposed to be such a great deal. **The guy**, when he came over and asked me if I wanted a route, **he** made it sound so great. Seven dollars a week for hardly any work. And then you find out the guy told you a bunch of lies.'* (Terkel 1974:13)

Set-inference Triggering Function of LDs- 'Poset' LDs: this is a "listing" function, which informs the hearer that the initial NP stands in a salient partially-ordered set relation to some entity or entities already evoked in the discourse-model.

Eg: *She had an idea for a project. She's going to use three groups of mice. **One**, she'll feed **them** mouse chow. **Another**, she'll feed **them** veggies. And the third she'll feed junk food.* (Ellen, F., 1997:8)

Amnesty an island-violation: 'Resumptive pronoun' LDs.

These are considered instances of "topicalization in disguise" wherein the resumptive pronoun occurs "because the extraction site is one from which it is difficult or impossible to extract" (Prince, 1998).

Eg: *'**The only one** we could see **her** figure was Number 2.'* (Kitty Carlisle, To Tell the Truth, 9/8/81)

4. Right dislocation

4.1. Definition

The definition of RD varies quite widely among different linguists. Ziv and Grosz (1993) describe RDs as constructions characterized by a final non-vocative NP which is coreferential with a pronoun that appears before this NP and in the same clause, as can be seen in the example:

I don't like **them** at all, **the cops**.

4.2. Realizations

4.2.1. Right dislocation and post-posing

Language users may find it difficult to distinguish between Right dislocation and post-posing. Structurally, both constructions involve the non-canonical placement of a complement of the verb in post verbal position. These structures only differs from each other in terms of the given-new status of the information expressed by the noncanonically positioned elements. RD does not require the post verbal noun phrase to present new information. In other word, the right-dislocated constituent represents information that has been either explicitly or implicitly evoked in the prior discourse. A following example is given for illustration:

*Below the waterfall (and this was the most astonishing sight of all) a whole mass of enormous glass pipes were dangling down into the river from somewhere high up in the ceiling! **They** real ly were **ENORMOUS**, **those pipes**.* (Dahl, R. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, 1964)

In this example, "those pipes" has been previously mentioned. The phrase represents information that has been explicitly evoked in the prior discourse.

4.2.2. Right dislocation and afterthought

Ziv and Grosz (1993) point to three main differences between RD and afterthoughts.

First, the position may also count as a distinguish property. Right dislocated elements always appear at the end of the utterance, while the corresponding entity in afterthoughts can appear in other positions in the sentences, as in: *I met him, your brother, I mean, two weeks ago.*

Second, Right dislocated elements are always coreferential with a noun phrase or pronoun in the main clause, while afterthought may contain corrections of reference, such as in:

I met John yesterday, Bill, I mean.

Third, intonationally, RD have a single intonation contour with no pause preceding the final noun phrase. In contrast, afterthoughts have a distinct pause before the final noun phrase.

4.3. Structural features

According to Kent, L (2013), a right dislocated phrase consists of a phrase after the main syntactic clause, which is typically anaphoric to a preceding NP in the main clause, as in the following examples. It can be a full noun phrase, or a resumptive or reduplicated pronoun. In English and other Western languages, only RD anaphors coreferential with main clause referents would be grammatical.

4.4. Functional feature

In the studies of Right dislocation in French, Lambrecht (1984) supplies a very deep characterization of the discourse functions of RD (Lambrecht refers to as 'anti-topic'). The dislocated noun phrase which is positioned at the end of the clause functions charactically in recovering entities which are either 'situationally evoked' or 'textually evoked'.

Ward and Birner (1996: 477) underlined the organizational function of right dislocations, noting that "*the dislocated NP of right-dislocation is constrained to constitute familiar, discourse-old information in context*".

Grosz and Ziv (1998) carried out some pioneering work on the study of the discourse functions of RD in English and Hebrew. And they showed that RD has an organizational function in discourse: to identify and reintroduce a potential topic in cases where the referent is evokable either situationally or linguistically. Moreover, the use of RDs in English is proscribed to refer to an entity which has just been mentioned unless it adds some attributive meaning.

Grosz and Ziv (1998) indicated that RDs are felicitous in English when referring:

(1) to an implicitly focused entity present in the discourse situation but not mentioned, as in:

"It is beautiful, this painting!" (Lambrecht, 1984)

(2) to entities textually evoked only when:

(a) they have been mentioned in discourse, but not recently.

A: I asked you to read this book for today. B: I know. I tried to very hard, but I was quite busy. Incidentally, it is much too difficult for me, this book. (Ziv, 1993)

(b) the NP adds some attributive meaning. Otherwise, RDs are predicted to be unacceptable.

5. English vs Vietnamese sentence structures and sentence elements

According to Tran Huu Manh (2008), English share common features with Vietnamese in terms of sentence structures and sentence elements. Firstly, both languages have the same sentence elements although they are named differently: Subject (S), Verb (V), Object (O), Complement (C), and Adverbial (A) in English and Chủ ngữ, Động từ, Tân ngữ, Bổ ngữ và Trạng ngữ in Vietnamese (Trần Hữu Mạnh, 2007: 394). Secondly, English has a certain number of basic sentence structures and so does Vietnamese, including: SV, SVO, SVC, SVOO, SVOC, SVA, SVOA:

In comparison with English, Vietnamese also have similar types of non-canonical structures. In this thesis, the researcher only takes investigation into LD and RD.

6. Left dislocation and Right dislocation in Vietnamese

6.1. Left dislocation in Vietnamese

In Vietnamese, there is a similar process of moving an element toward the initial position of the sentence as in English. The different Linguists use various terms to refer to this process, such as: "đề ngữ" (Diep Quang Ban, 2004), "thành phần khởi ý" (Hoang Trong Phien, 1980), "khởi ý" (Nguyen Huu Quynh, 2001), "chủ đề" (Truong Van Chinh and Nguyen Hien Le, 1963), or "từ-chủ đề" (Nguyen Tai Can, 1975). And the element undergoing this process is often termed as "khởi ngữ" (Nguyễn Minh Thuyết and Nguyễn Văn Hiệp, 1998; Nguyen Kim Than, 1997; Nguyen Lan Trung, 2009).

In English, this leftward movement can result in two kinds of noncanonical constructions named *Fronting* and *Left Dislocation*. The difference between these two constructions is that whether the preposed element is coreferential with a resumptive pronoun in the clause or not. However, in Vietnamese, according to Nguyen Lan Trung (2009), any part of a sentence displaced from its normal position toward the beginning of the sentence whether it is repeated or not can be regarded as Khởi ngữ.

In term of syntactic features, most of "khởi ngữ" structures are realized with Noun Phrases, Adjective Phrases and Verb Phrases. They usually stand independently or separately from the other sentence elements. They can be followed by a comma or not. In some cases, adding a comma to separate it from the other elements is acceptable as the following example:

Ông Bu Sơn, ông ấy trả hết

In term of function, "Khởi ngữ" is used to set focus on the part which is pushed to the initial position of the sentence or to raise the topic of the sentence. The two functions of "khởi ngữ" usually overlap and interact with each other (Nguyen Lan Trung, 2009).

6.2. Right Dislocation in Vietnamese

RDs have not received as much attention in the literature as other non-canonical constructions; Therefore, In Vietnamese, there have been few studies on this construction.

In the study of focus information construction in English and Vietnamese, Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen (2011) indicated that in Vietnamese, RD is the construction in which the dislocated element following the predicate of the sentence add attributive information for an element in the sentence.

In Vietnamese, RD performs the functions of adding attributive meaning, contrasting and focusing on a sentence element (Huyen. 2011).

In short, our understanding of RD is nevertheless still limited, in the sense that there is a dearth of research on two aspects. First of all, little is known about the structural features and the frequency of use of right dislocations, and secondly the functions of right dislocation used by Vietnamese speakers have not been fully investigated.

III. Methodology and analysis procedures

1. Research questions

1. How are the structure and function of Left dislocation and Right dislocation realized in English and in Vietnamese short stories?
2. What are the similarities and differences in the use of Left dislocation and Right dislocation in English and Vietnamese short stories in terms of their structure and function?

2. Research methods

In order to achieve the aims of the study, both quantitative and qualitative approach are used.

In using qualitative method, I set up criteria for selecting LD and RD in short stories and deciding which certain function the dislocation construction perform.

In using quantitative method, the frequencies of the use of left dislocations and right dislocations in English and Vietnamese short stories to perform a certain function are showed.

Finally, a contrastive analysis is carried out in order to find out the similarities and differences on the use of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories in term of their structure and function.

3. Selection of samples

First, in the selection of LD and RD, I manually found LD and RD based on the following criteria:

Left dislocation: the sentence structures in which a referential constituent which could function as an argument or adjunct within a predicate-argument structure is moved leftwards, and a resumptive coreferential pronominal element appears in the marked constituent's canonical position.

Right Dislocation: the sentence structures in which a referential constituent which could function as an argument or adjunct within a predicate-argument structure is moved rightwards, and a resumptive coreferential pronominal element appears in the marked constituent's canonical position.

Second, based on the database, I can generalize a set of function that LD and RD perform in English and Vietnamese short stories.

Functions of LD in short stories

LD in English performs the following functions in certain contexts:

Topicalizing: the contexts in which the referent localizes and determines the area of certain circumstances, where something happened or will happen.

Contrasting: the contexts in which left dislocated element mark a contrastive relation between a set of opposites given in the discourse.

Focusing: the contexts in which referent is moved to the initial position in order to draw the reader's attention.

Functions of RD in short stories

Identifying the referent: RD refers to an entity has not been textually mentioned in the discourse.

Reintroducing the topic: RD refers to a textually evoked entity but it has not been mentioned recently.

Adding attributive meaning: RD refers to an entity which has just been mentioned in previous discourse.

Focusing: RD refers to an entity which has just been mentioned in previous discourse.

4. Data analysis

Samples containing LD and RD in English and Vietnamese were categorized into functional and structural groups. In the functional group, samples containing LD in English short stories were categorized into three minor groups: Topicalizing, Focusing and Contrasting. The percentages of each function were illustrated in a chart. Samples containing LD in Vietnamese short stories were classified into two minor groups: Topicalizing and focusing illustrated in a chart so. Then the similarities and differences between the functions of English and Vietnamese LD were shown in a chart.

Similarly, samples containing RD in English were categorized into 3 minor groups: Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic and Adding attributive meaning illustrated in a chart. And samples containing LD in Vietnamese were classified into four minor groups: Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic, Adding attributive meaning and Focusing, which were illustrated in a chart so. Then the similarities and differences between the functions of English and Vietnamese RD were shown in a chart.

In the structural group, based on the data collected, an analysis and generalization of structural features of RD and LD realized in English and Vietnamese short stories is given. Then the similarities and differences in the use of RD and LD in English and Vietnamese short stories in terms of their structures are indicated.

IV. Data presentation and discussion

1. Data presentation

In order to find out similarities and differences between the structures and functions of Left dislocation and Right dislocation, as well as the frequency of using these constructions in English and in Vietnamese short stories, in this subsection I would like to present nine analyzed figures basing on the collected data.

First, the frequency distribution of Left dislocation and Right dislocation in English and Vietnamese is shown in the first figures.

Second, as regards LD, the analysis of the structures of LD deals with their syntactic features in terms of sentence elements and parts of speech. Then the distribution of their functions are displayed in the next three figures.

Third, as regards RD, the analysis of the structures of RD also deals with their syntactic features in terms of sentence elements and parts of speech. And the distribution of their functions are displayed in the last three figures.

1.1. The percentages of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories

1.1.1. The percentages of LD and RD in English short stories.

Figure 1 below shows the frequency of LD and RD in English short stories.

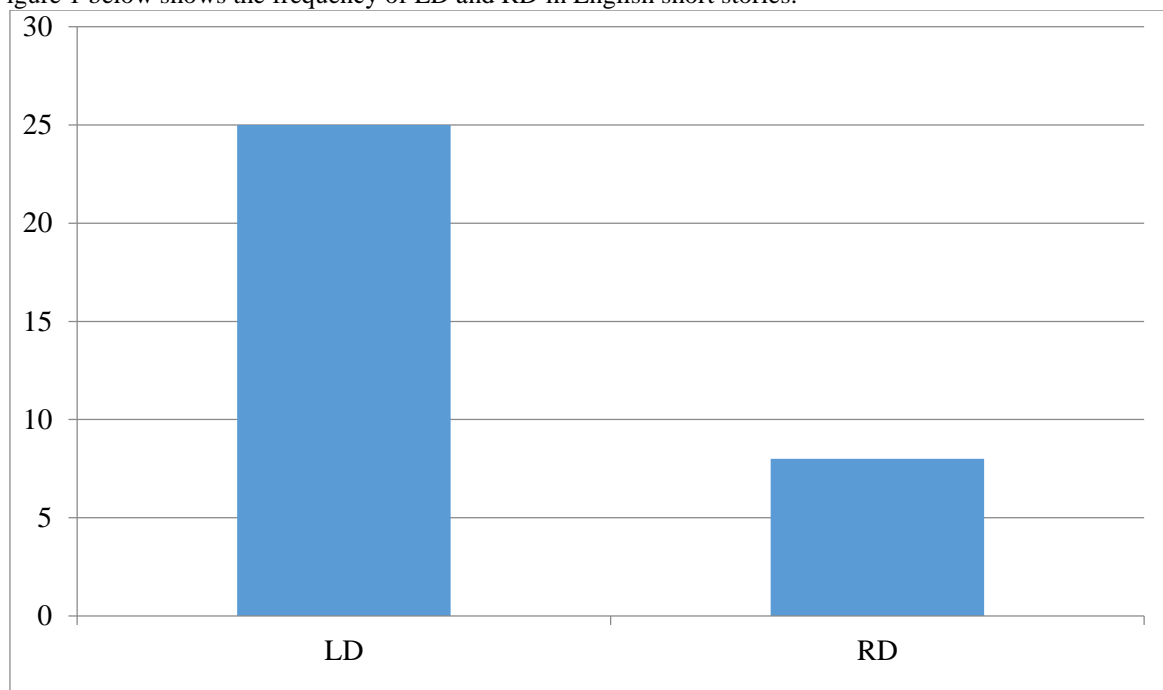


Figure 1: Frequency of LD and RD in English short stories

As illustrated in figure above, LDs are used more frequently than RDS in English short stories. In ten short stories, 25 Left dislocations are found while there are only 8 Right ones. Examples of LD and RD in English short stories are as below:

a. **With Khaterah**, I had seen **her** soul with my own eyes and knew a true match was impossible, but the swatch I held was the best I could find. (*My sister soul*- By Erin A. Tidwell)

b. Are **they** stupid, **the** rich? (*A House of Gold and Steel*- By Marissa Lingen)

In the examples above, (a) is LD and (b) is RD. The dislocated NPs and the resumptive pronouns are bolded.

(**Samples of LD and RD in English short stories, see Appendices I and II**)

1.1.2. The percentages of LD and RD in Vietnamese short stories

Figure 2 below shows the frequency of LD and RD in Vietnamese short stories.

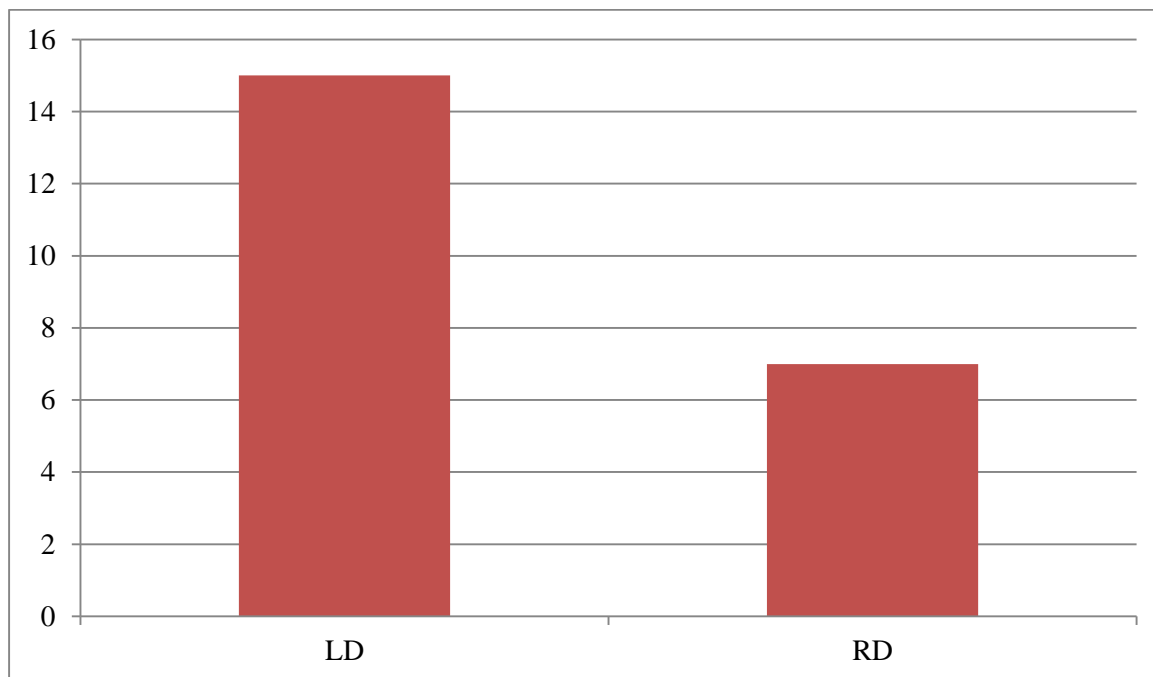


Figure 2: Frequency of LD and RD in Vietnamese short stories

As can be seen that the majority of dislocation constructions found in 10 Vietnamese short stories are LDs. In 22 dislocation constructions realized, LDs occupy nearly 70% while RDs account for only 30%. The samples of LD and RD are given in turn below:

a. **Riêng Tư, anh ta** có sẵn đá lửa, mì chính - dĩ nhiên là ăn bột của đơn vị - để đổi lấy quế, cát kỹ dưới đáy ba lô. (Quê hương- Nguyễn Trường)

b. **Cha mẹ bên ấy cùng người không thể thiếu mặt, chàng rể tương lai.** (Bến- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

(Samples of LD and RD in Vietnamese short stories, see Appendices III and IV)

1.1.3. The percentages of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

Figure 3 below shows the disproportion in distribution of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

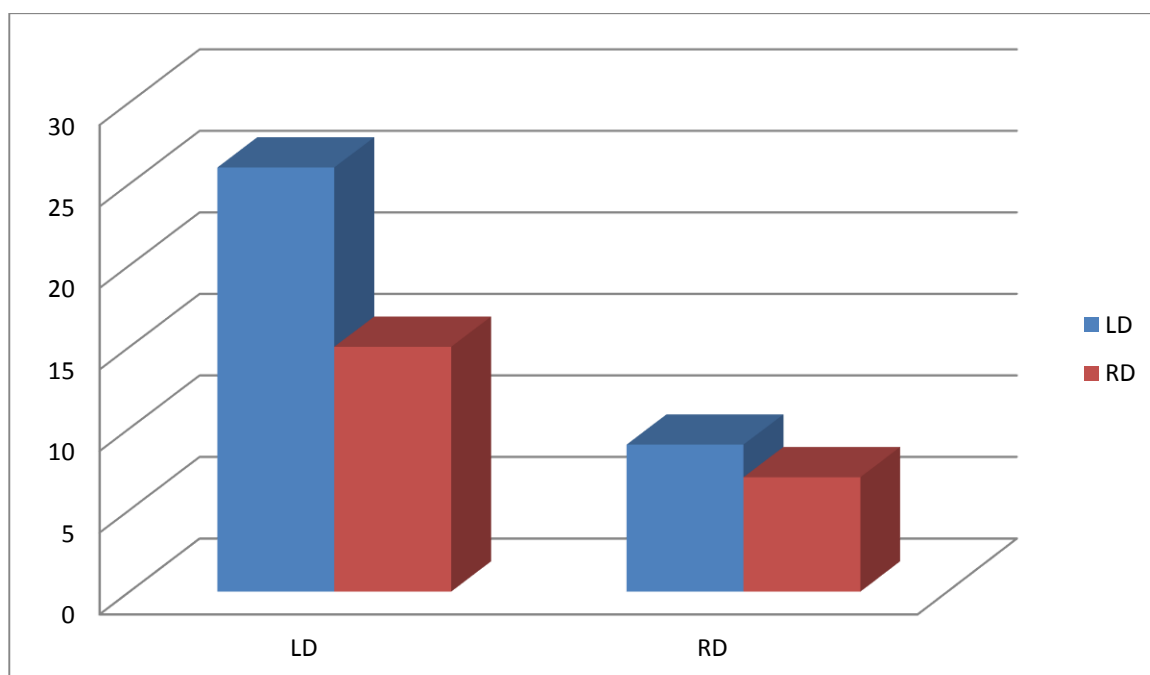


Figure 3: Frequency distribution of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories

Figure 3 shows that there is a considerable disproportion of dislocation constructions used in English and Vietnamese short stories. In both English and Vietnamese, LDs occur more frequently than RDs; On the other hand, in English short stories, the use of LD and RD is more popular than the equivalents in Vietnamese.

1.2. The Structures and functions of LD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

1.2.1. The Structures of LD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

Based on the database we can generalize that Left dislocations in English and Vietnamese have the following structural features.

-All Left dislocated elements found in English and Vietnamese short stories do not participate in the relation between the predicates and their arguments although they are coreferential with an argument, and thus they have no semantic roles and cases. It is the resumptive pronoun that instead participates in the argument-predicate relation and has a semantic role and case-marker. And most commonly, the resumptive pronouns function as either subjects or objects. As follow:

a. *Your eyes, they shine silver* (*Bandit and the Seventy Raccoon War* - *Don Allmon*)

b. *À cô Thanh, cô ta đang chọc những lỗ nhỏ trên mảnh đất chỉ vừa bằng cái chiếu.* (*Vòng Bạc đổi màu*- Nguyễn Trường)

In these examples, “your eyes” and “cô Thanh” are dislocated Noun phrases which are considered as an extra clausal constituents. And the pronouns “they”, “cô ta” function as subjects of the sentences.

-As regard the parts of speech functioning as Left dislocated elements in Both English and Vietnamese, although it is possible to dislocate other syntactic types of constituent (Prepositional phrase, verb phrase), NP is the most common type used in Left dislocations. 100 % of left dislocated elements found in 10 English and 10 Vietnamese short stories are NPs.

1.2.2. The functions of LD in English and Vietnamese short stories

1.2.2.1. The functions of LD in English short stories

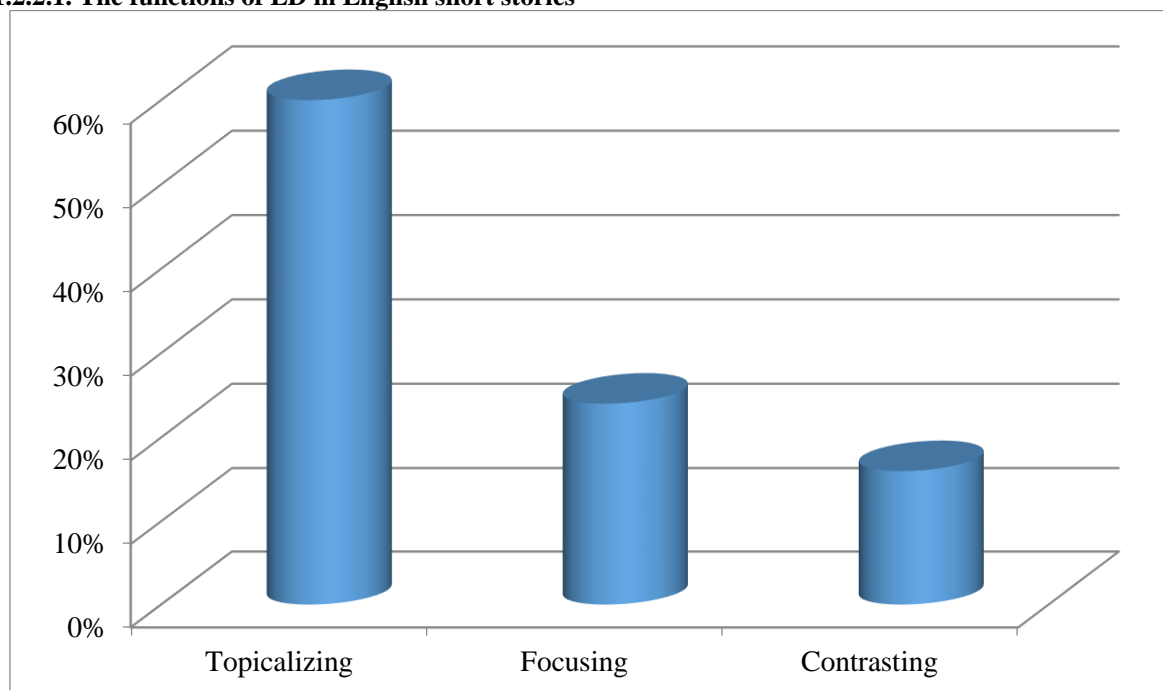


Figure 4. Distribution of LD performing the functions of Topicalizing, Focusing and Contrasting in English short stories.

Figure above shows that LD in English have three functions in which Topicalizing is primary function, accounting for 60%.

The majority of left dislocations in English short stories function to raise the topic or to mark a shift respect to the previously established topic, as the following example:

I can see my own reflection, Jacsen thinks, like when he was young and he'd go down to the river pools and try to see his father's face in his own. And his mother, she'd say, –Come away from there, Bandit. You'll fall in and drown. –Don't you worry, she would say, You're the spitting image of your pa. But it wasn't his reflection he saw but just a raccoon who'd crawled up beside him. (*Bandit and the Seventy Raccoon War* -*Don Allmon*)

Focusing function occupies 24% of the database.

E.g: *I brought it into the circle of light cast by the nearest lamp, where I'd laid a pile of azure blue linen, and held it near. The fabric, beautifully and richly dyed, paled in comparison to the soul. I could not slay demons, like my sister, but I had always possessed an extraordinary eye for choosing the perfect color for any person as soon as I met them. With **Khaterah**, I had seen **her** soul with my own eyes and knew a true match was impossible, but the swatch I held was the best I could find.* (My sister soul- By Erin A. Tidwell)

And Contrasting function accounts for a small percentage with only four out of 25 constructions occupying 16% each.

E.g: ***Khaterah**, her tone swift and sharp; **our father**, his voice steady but questioning.* (My sister soul- By Erin A. Tidwell)

1.2.2.2. The functions of LD in Vietnamese short stories

Figure 3 shows the distribution of LD performing the functions of Topicalizing and Focusing in Vietnamese.

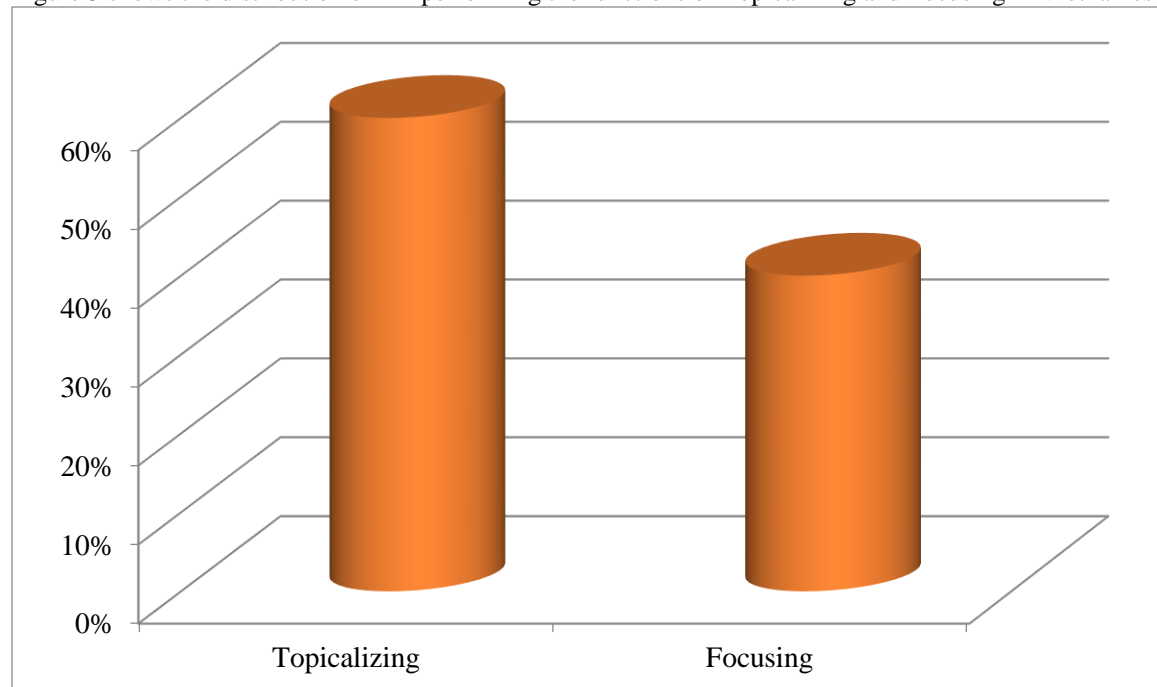


Figure 5. Distribution of LD performing the functions of Topicalizing and Focusing in Vietnamese short stories.

As can be seen that LD in Vietnamese short stories has two functions: Topicalizing and Focusing. The main function of LD in Vietnamese is Topicalizing accounting for 60%. For instance:

*Sao sao, thế ra nay ông gặp bà Sáu về chuyện này ấy hả? **Nhưng mà thằng Huân**, nó là người có học, lại đẹp trai...* (Bến- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

Only 40% of Left dislocation occurrences displays Focusing function, as follow:

*Cha nàng mừng lắm vì ông là người rất hiểu nàng: **Một con bé khác người**, mình chỉ lo nó sẽ chẳng đồng ý ai cả.* (Đôi găng tay da màu nâu- Y Ban)

1.2.2.3. The functions of English and Vietnamese LD in contrast.

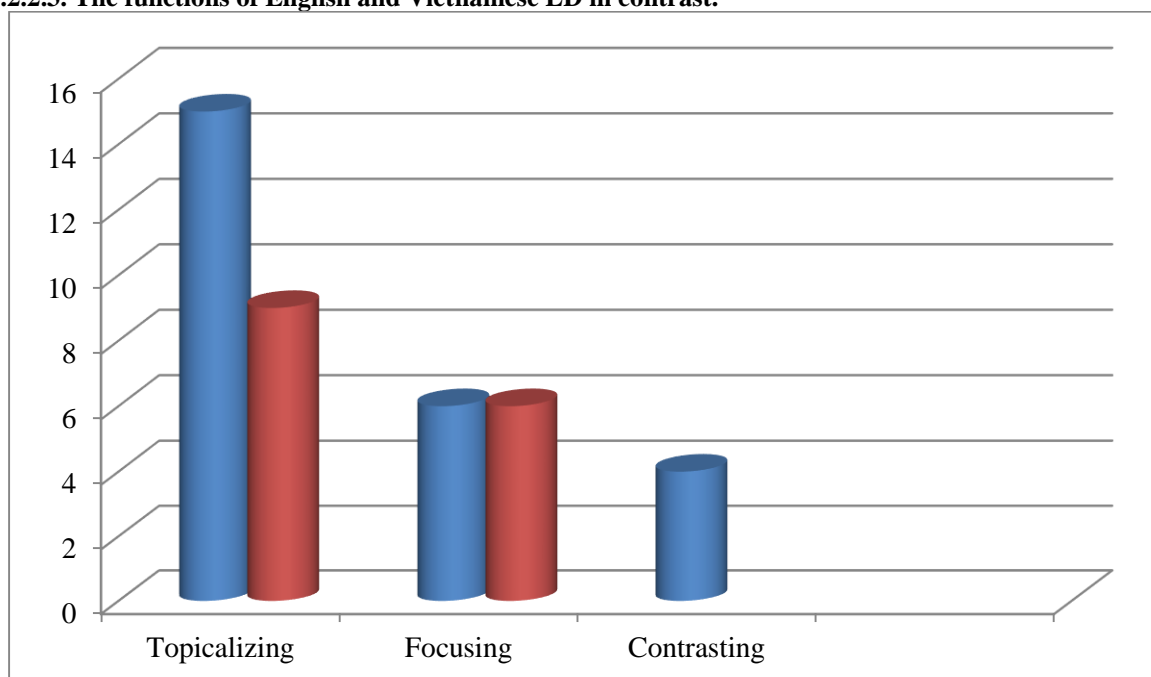


Figure 6. Distribution of LD and RD performing the functions of Topicalizing, Focusing and Contrasting in English and Vietnamese short stories.

Both Vietnamese and English LDs can function to mark the topic. As illustrated below:

LD in English:

*Upstairs was beyond my ability to describe, except that everything I looked at either glistened or invited the touch of cleaner fingers than mine to glory in its softness. I had not ever imagined a world like I saw upstairs. **The housekeeper**, a gruff woman who seemed to keep things running with the tiniest glances, was kind as **she** hustled me along to the Mistress. I think she knew what it was like to come the way I had. Maybe she'd come up that way herself.* (A House of Gold and Steel- By Marissa Lingen)

LD in Vietnamese:

*Nói xong, bà Dung quẩy cái giỏ đi chợ, te te đi một nước, mặc cho bà hàng cá đằng sau đang gom từ để chửi cho kịp. Trong mắt bà Dung, **Diêm của bà** thì ai có phước lắm mới lấy được nó, chứ ở đó bày đặt dèm pha.* (Giai nhân- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

In addition, LD in English can function as contrasting. As in:

*Somewhere beyond the kitchen, I heard voices raised in strife. **Khatereh**, her tone swift and sharp; **our father**, his voice steady but questioning. The argument continued in fits and starts for several minutes, until at least I heard the door open and close as father left the house. Khat appeared in the kitchen door.* (My sister soul- By Erin A. Tidwell)

The contrast is clear in the above examples: “**Khatereh**”, “**our father**” are not discourse- new. In fact, they are mentioned by the speaker several sentences before the left dislocations. Between two dislocated constituents “**Khatereh**” and “**our father**” there is a salient opposition in what is predicated of them.

1.3. The Structures and functions of RD in English and Vietnamese short stories

1.3.1. The Structures of RD in English and Vietnamese

In term of syntactic structure, RD in English is characterized by a phrase dislocated to the right of the clause is coreferential with a pronoun that appears before this phrase and in the same clause. As in:

*“Hidden in the women’s house?” the wizard said in a flat voice. “So **it** comes back disembodied to haunt me, **the smell of the salve on her skin**.”* (The Dragon’s Child- By J. Kathleen Cheney)

Similarly, in Vietnamese, RD is also consists of a phrase dislocated in the clause final position refers to a pronoun in the clause.

E.g. *Thế mà anh cứ tưởng là mắt **em** mãi mãi, cô bé ngang ngạnh của anh. Bây giờ thì anh được cả trâu lẫn nghé”.* (Giai nhân- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

In term of parts of speech functioning as Right dislocated elements, in both languages, all of RDs are realized by NPs. For instance:

*She feels **it** growing inside her, **a darkness where before there was a spark of light**.*

*Bây giờ thì **mày** phải theo tao ra đôn công an, **con ả cấp!*** (Anh dũng cảm và anh hèn- Thái Bá Tuấn)

1.3.2. The functions of RD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

1.3.2.1. The functions of RD in English short stories.

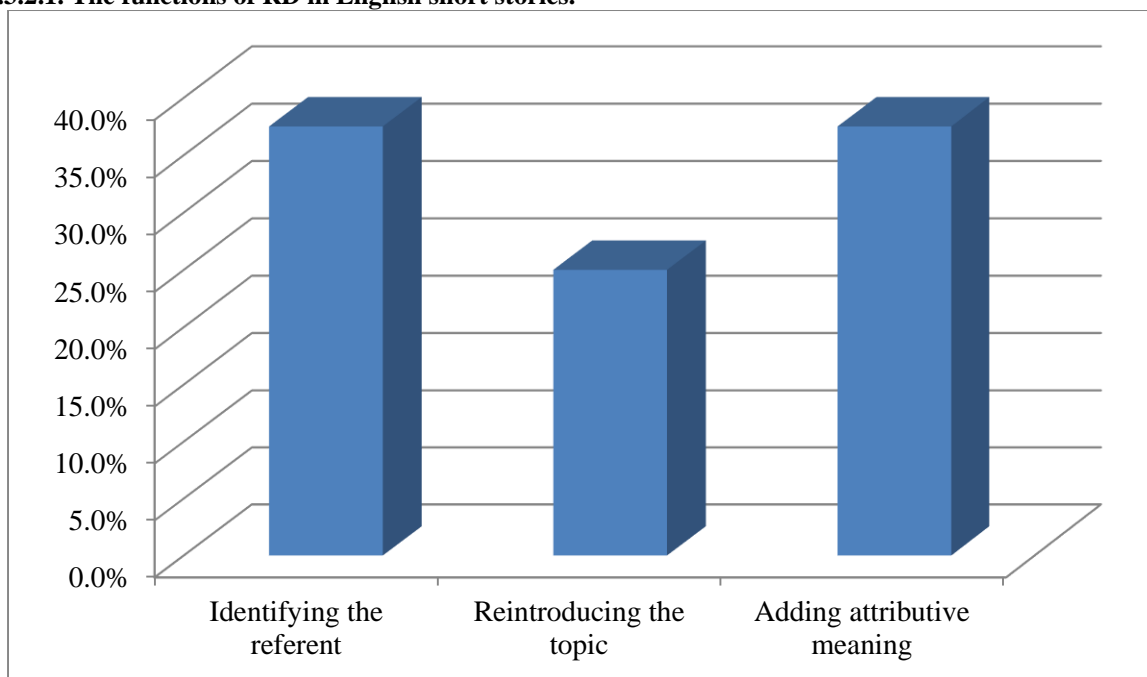


Figure 7. Distribution of RD performing the functions of Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic and Adding attributive meaning in English short stories

RD in English has three functions as shown in figure 7 in which Identifying the referent and Adding attributive meaning are of equal frequency of occurrence, 38%. For example,

a. *Are they stupid, the rich?* (*A House of Gold and Steel*- By Marissa Lingen)

b. *Like a butcher who don't eat meat. Jerome wasn't fooled by outsiders. But Jerome loved Miss Em.*

Miss Em had rescued him when he was a teenager, a mutt with no father and a dead mother; (*Hold a Candle to The Devil*- Nicole M. Taylor)

In the examples above, the Right dislocated Noun phrase “the rich” in (a) functions to identify the pronoun “they”, the referent which is evokable situationally. And in (b) the right dislocated element “a mutt with no father and a dead mother” functions to add more meaning to the referent “he” which has been mentioned in previous sentence “Jerome”.

Reintroducing the topic accounts for a smaller percentage with 24%.

e.g. *“Hidden in the women’s house?” the wizard said in a flat voice. “So it comes back disembodied to haunt me, the smell of the salve on her skin.”* (*The Dragon’s Child* - By J. Kathleen Cheney)

1.3.2.2. The functions of RD in Vietnamese short stories

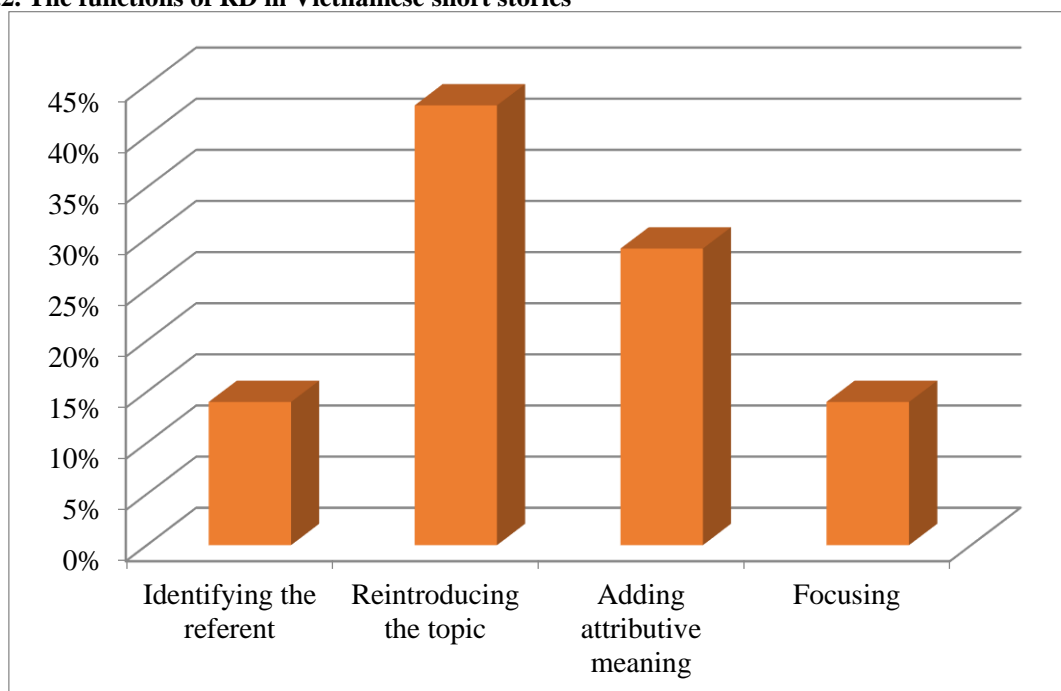


Figure 8. Distribution of RD performing the functions of Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic, Adding attributive meaning and Focusing in Vietnamese short stories

As regards the percentage of occurrences of English RD in terms of their functions as Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic, Adding attributive meaning and Focusing, most of RD function to reintroduce the topic (43%). As the following example:

Nàng phải có nó, có bằng được đôi găng tay da màu nâu ấy. (Đôi găng tay da màu nâu- Y Ban)

Adding attributive meaning function occupies 29%.

E.g. *Nó đến lúc nào An cũng không biết nữa, con bạn thân là người duy nhất biết An*

sẽ treo cổ tự tử ở đâu nếu một ngày cả thế giới đảo điên đi tìm nó. (Những chú chim gác mái – Minh Nhật)

While identifying the referent accounts for a small percentage with only 14 % each.

E.g. *Cha nàng đơn đã kéo thêm chồng ghé mới. Nguyệt cúi gằm, vòng ra đứng nép sau áo mẹ. Gọi là nhà trai, nhưng cũng chỉ gồm có ba người. Cha mẹ bên ấy cùng người không thể thiếu mặt, chàng rể tương lai.* (Bến- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

And there is also one RD construction which displays the focusing function accounts for 14%. As follow:

Ngày đó cũng tới, đám đồng nghiệp công ty ngồi thấp thòm ở hai bàn gần sát sân khấu, cứ chòm chụm đầu lại bàn tán xôn xao, háo hức chờ coi ai là chú rể.

Rồi thì Diễm cũng bước vào, nhẹ nhàng đẩy chiếc xe lăn có người ngồi trên mặc vest đen, chú rể. (Giai nhân- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

1.3.2.3. The functions of RD in English and Vietnamese short stories in contrast

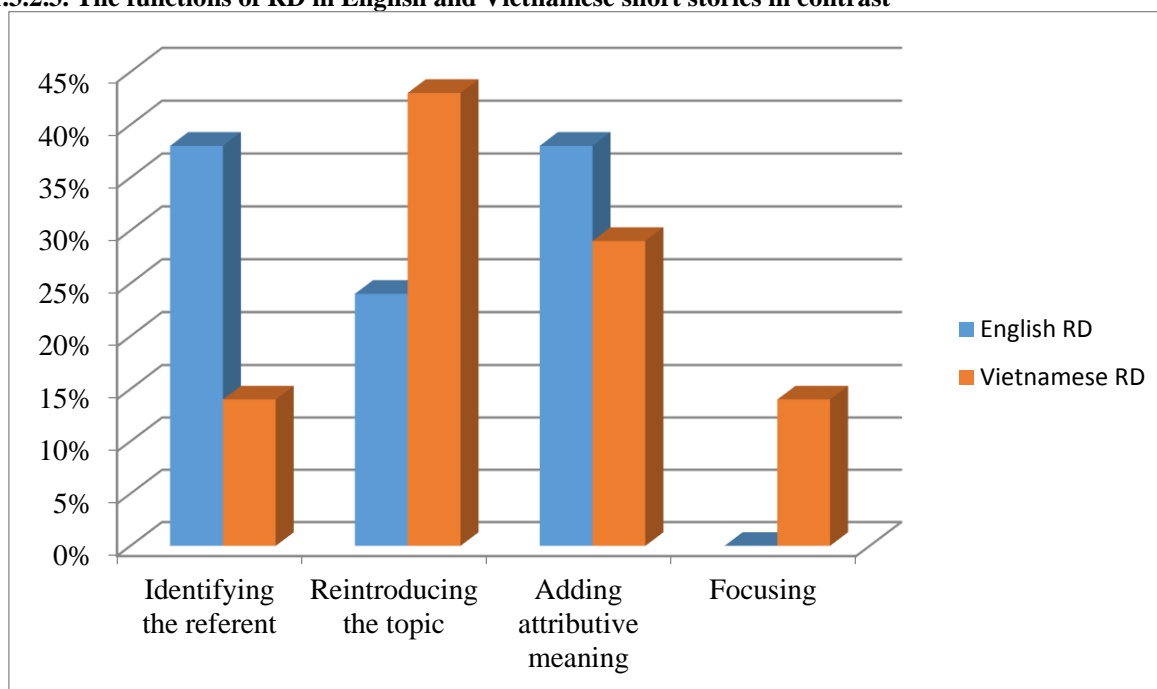


Figure 9. Distribution of RD performing the functions of Identifying the referent, Reintroducing, Adding attributive meaning and Focusing in English and Vietnamese short stories

We can see from the figure above that there is a considerable disproportion of Right dislocation’s functions used in English and Vietnamese short stories.

Right dislocation in English and Vietnamese encode discourse-old information: in most of occurrences of RDs, the detached element has been mentioned in the previous discourse or is inferable. RD is a good strategy to mention old information and also to displace it from the main clause.

However, in Vietnamese Right dislocation, there is one special case in which the dislocated Noun phrase refers to the entity has been mentioned in the previous sentence but does not add any attributive meaning. In this context, the right dislocation function to give an emphasis on the entity to get reader attention.

2. Discussion

Through selection, classification, and contrastive analysis, we recognize that there are some similarities and differences in the use of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories in terms of their structures and functions.

2.1. Left dislocation in English and Vietnamese short stories

2.1.1. Similarities

The use of LD in English short stories and its equivalent in Vietnamese short stories shares some common features. In terms of structures, most obviously is the initial position in the sentence of the Left dislocated elements, and they have the same typical realisation of Noun phrase. Secondly, in English and Vietnamese, these NPs are coreferential with a resumptive pronoun which can be subject or object in the sentence. And the dislocated NP can be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma. For examples:

The housekeeper, a gruff woman who seemed to keep things running with the tiniest glances, was kind as she hustled me along to the Mistress. (A House of Gold and Steel - By Marissa Lingen)

Ừ, hạnh phúc mà, lúc nào nó cũng kể bên, chỉ là giữa cuộc đời bận rộn, người ta có kịp nhận ra nó hay không. (Giai nhân- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

In these examples, “the house keeper” and “hạnh phúc” are dislocated NPs which are coreferential with pronouns “she” and “nó” respectively.

Functionally, LD in English and Vietnamese share the same functions of Topicalizing and Focusing. Both LD in English and Vietnamese are used by the interlocutors to mark the topic of the sentence or discourse. It is easy to understand this because when speakers want to orientate the listeners towards the topic of the sentence or make an emphasis they have to put it initially to attract listeners’ attention.

3.2.1.2. Differences

The difference in the use of LD in English and Vietnamese short stories is that LD in English can perform the function of Contrasting while Vietnamese LD does not, and this can be seen in the occurrences which the entity represented by the initial NP stands in a opposite ordered set relation to some entity or entities already evoked in the discourse

3.2.2. Right dislocation in English and Vietnamese short stories

3.2.2.1. Similarities

Structurally, RD in English and Vietnamese has the same structural features which the Right dislocated element put in final position of the sentence is coreferential with a pronoun in the sentence. And characteristically, the Right dislocated elements are realized by NPs. In addition, like LD, the right dislocated NPs can be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma. For instance,

Nó đến lúc nào An cũng không biết nữa, con bạn thân là người duy nhất biết An sẽ treo cổ tự tử ở đâu nếu một ngày cả thế giới đảo đác đi tìm nó. (Những chú chim gác mái – Minh Nhật)

She feels it growing inside her, a darkness where before there was a spark of light. (They Make of You a Monster- Damien Walters Grintalis)

As regards function, Both English RD and Vietnamese RD present old information to discourse for different functions, Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic and Adding attributive meaning.

3.2.2.2. Differences

Functionally, the difference between English RD and Vietnamese equivalent is that the main functions of RD are Identifying the referent and Adding attributive meaning mean while the main function of Vietnamese RD is Reintroducing the topic.

Moreover, RD in Vietnamese has one more function that English RD does not have is focusing, in which an entity in the immediate discourse is reintroduced in order to not only reintroduce the topic but also to emphasize the topic. As illustrated in the following example:

Ngày đó cũng tới, đám đông nghiệp công ty ngồi thấp thòm ở hai bàn gần sát sân khấu, cứ chòm chòm đầu lại bàn tán xôn xao, háo hức chờ coi ai là chủ rể.

Rồi thì Diễm cũng bước vào, nhẹ nhàng đẩy chiếc xe lăn có người ngồi trên mặc vest đen, chú rể. (Giai nhân- Nguyễn Thị Thu Huệ)

In English this case is considered as infelicitious.

V. Conclusion

This study has been an attempt to present, describe and classify cases related to LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories.

The research has investigated the two non-canonical constructions in both English and Vietnamese: Left dislocation and Right dislocation which are devices applied for marking topic and compensating for unclear information by moving into initial or final position an item which is coreferential with a resumptive pronoun in the sentence.

The thesis has found out some similarities and differences in the use of LD and RD in English and Vietnamese short stories in terms of their structures and functions, as well as the frequency of using these constructions in English and Vietnamese short stories.

LD constructions in English and Vietnamese short stories share the following common features. Structurally, they can be easily realized by Noun Phrase standing at the beginning of the sentence. And this Noun phrase is coreferential with a resumptive pronoun in the sentence which is Object or Subject of the sentence. In terms of punctuation, LD can be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma. Functionally, both English and Vietnamese LD function to mark a topic by means of introducing a new topic, reintroducing the topic or Contrasting.

In terms of functions, English LD can perform the function of Contrasting while Vietnamese LD does not, and this can be seen in the occurrences which the entity represented by the initial NP stands in a opposite ordered set relation to some entity or entities already evoked in the discourse

RD constructions in English and Vietnamese short stories have the same following features. Structurally, Right dislocated element is typically realised by a Noun phrase moved to the final position of the sentence. As regard punctuation, RD can be separated from the previous part of the sentence with a comma. In terms of function, both English RD and Vietnamese equivalent can perform the functions of Identifying the referent, Reintroducing the topic and Adding attributive meaning.

Functionally, the fundamental difference between RD in English and Vietnamese equivalent is that one of the most typical functions of Vietnamese RD is Reintroducing the topic meanwhile Identifying the referent and Adding attributive meaning are the mains function of English RD. Because RD in English is used mainly to compensate for unclear information. Especially, RD in Vietnamese short stories performs the function of Focusing whereas English RD does not.

Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that the use of dislocation constructions in English short stories are more popular than in Vietnamese short stories. And in both English and Vietnamese short stories, LD occurs more frequently than RD.

References

- [1]. Ban, Diep Quang. (2004). Vietnamese Grammar. (Ngữ pháp Việt Nam). Hanoi University of Education Press. 2. Birner, Betty J. 1994. Information Status and Word Order: An Analysis of English Inversion. *Language* 70: 233-59.
- [2]. Barnes B.K. (1985). *The Pragmatics of Left Detachment in Spoken Standard French*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- [3]. Birner, B. J.; and Ward, G. (1996). "A Crosslinguistic Study of Postposing in Discourse". *Language and Speech: Special Issue on Discourse, Syntax and Information*. No.39: 111-140.
- [4]. Chinh, Truong Van.; and Le, Nguyen Hien. (1963). *Treatise on Vietnamese Grammar. (Khảo luận về ngữ pháp Việt Nam)*. Hue University Press
- [5]. Douglas Ben and Anna Fowles-Winkler. (2004). Various Types of Left Shifting: Topicalization, Focus Movement, and Yiddish-Movement. Retrieved December 11, 2006, from <http://www.colorado.edu/linguistics/courses/LAM5430/BenAnnaPrincehandout.pdf>
- [6]. Grosz, Barbara and Yael Ziv. 1998. Centering, global focus, and right dislocation. *Centering in Discourse*, 39-51.
- [7]. Halliday, M.A.K.; and Mathiessen Ch. M.I.M. (2004). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar. (Third edition)*. Edward Arnold
- [8]. Huyen, Nguyen Thi Thanh. (2011). Cấu trúc tiêu điểm thông tin trong câu tiếng Việt và tiếng Anh. *Journal of Ho Chi Minh University of Education*. ISSN: 1859 -3100
- [9]. Lambrecht, K. (1984). *Information Structure and Sentence Form: Topic, Focus and the Mental Representation of Discourse Referents*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- [10]. Lambrecht, K. (2001). Dislocation, in M. Haspelmath, E. Konig, W. Oesterreicher, & W. Raible (eds.). *Typology and Language Universals*, Vol 2. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. 1050-1078.
- [11]. Manh, Tran Huu. (2008). A comparative analysis of English and Vietnamese sentence on the aspects of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. *Scientific Information*. Issue 6/2008.
- [12]. Phien, Hoang Trong. (1980). *Vietnamese Grammar. (Ngữ pháp Tiếng Việt)*. University & Vocational School Press, Hà Nội.
- [13]. Prince, E. (1981). Topicalization, focus movement, and yiddish movement. *Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley: BLS. 249- 264.
- [14]. Prince, E. (1992). On the Functions of Left-Dislocation in English Discourse. In A. Kamio (ed.). *Directions in Functional Linguistics*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 117-144.
- [15]. Prince, E. (1998). On the Limits of Syntax with Reference to Left Dislocation and Topicalization, in P. Culicover & L. McNally (eds.). *Syntax and Semantics*. San Diego: Academic Press. 281-302.
- [16]. Quirk, R.; Greenbaum, S.; Leech, G.; and Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. Longman.
- [17]. Quynh, Nguyen Huu. (2001). *Vietnamese Grammar. (Ngữ pháp Tiếng Việt)*. Encyclopedia Press.
- [18]. Rodman, R. (1998). On Left Dislocation, in E. van Riemsdijk, H. Zwarts, & F. Anagnostopoulou (eds.), *Materials on Left Dislocation*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 31-54. [Originally in *Papers in Linguistics*, 7: 473-466.]
- [19]. Ross, J. R. (1967). On the Cyclic Nature of English Pronominalization. Mouton.
- [20]. Than, Nguyen Kim. (1997). *Research on Vietnamese Grammar. (Nghiên cứu ngữ pháp tiếng Việt)*. Hanoi Education Press.
- [21]. Tizón-Couto, D. (2012). Left Dislocation in English: A Functional-Discoursal Approach. Bern: Peter Lang.
- [22]. Trung, Nguyen Lan. (2009). Thematic element in the Vietnamese sentence systematically considered. (Thành phần khởi ngữ trong câu Tiếng Việt xét về mặt hệ thống). *Journal of Science by Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Foreign studies* No. 31. 25, 199-208.
- [23]. Ward, G. and Birner, B. (2001). *Discourse and Information Structure*. In: *Handbook of Discourse Analysis*, ed. by Deborah Schiffrin, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi Hamilton, 119-137. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- [24]. Ziv, Yael and Barbara Grosz (1993). "Right Dislocation and Attentional State". In: Buchalla, Rhobna and Anita Mittwoch (ed.). *The Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Conference Ben Gurion University of the Negev 1993 Jerusalem: Akademon*. P. 184-199.
- [25]. <http://www.beneath- ceaseless-skies.com/stories>
- [26]. <https://waka.vn>