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STRATEGIES FOR TRANSLATING INFUSING INTENSIFICATION IN ENGLISH LITERARY WORKS INTO VIETNAMESE

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Abstract

Intensification is regarded as a marker of intensity by structural linguists and grammarians. Under the light of Appraisal Theory by Martin and White (2005), intensification is understood not only as a marker of intensity, but also as a conveyer of meaning categorized into isolating and infusing intensification respectively. This paper aims at investigating strategies for translating English infusing intensification into Vietnamese and examine how the meaning of English infusing intensification is rendered into the target language. The study was conducted using a qualitative method to analyze 200 samples extracted from English literary works and their corresponding Vietnamese translations. The research findings reveal the key strategies used to transfer English infusing intensification into Vietnamese, alongside the syntactic and semantic shifts occurring in the translation process. Understanding how this meaning is transferred in the Vietnamese translation is essential and useful in the sense that it contributes to a deeper insight into the manipulation of this category of language, thereby facilitating effective cross-cultural communication.

Keywords: infusing intensification; strategy; shifts; Vietnamese translation

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1. Introduction

Infusing intensification, as defined by Martin and White (2005), determines the inclination towards the up-scaling or down-scaling of intensity in qualities and processes so as to show the attitude that the speaker or writer wants to express. In terms of realizations, infusing intensification can be realized through adjectives, adverbs, verbs, nouns or phrases such as *white* cheek, *terrible efforts*, *deep-set eyes*, *deep-rooted* fear, *seedy-look-in chaps*, *weighing on his mind*, *dread with fatigue*, *roused the old man to a fury*. In terms of function, this category serves to increase or decrease the quality of entities or processes. An examination of strategies used in the process of translating infusing intensification into Vietnamese is quite new and more or less important for language learners and translators. In rendering the meaning of infusing intensification, there will certainly be transformations in the lexicon and in the structure of the Vietnamese translated version to ensure the equivalent effect of translation (Nida, 1964). The findings highlight translation shifts, enabling English learners and users to produce more natural Vietnamese translations. This, in turn, supports the practical application of this linguistic category in communication as well as enhances language competence and translation skills. The study was carried out based on the translation theories by Newmark (1998), Catford

(1965/2004) and Vinay and Darbelnet (2004) to examine the rendering of the expressions of infusing intensification into Vietnamese, as well as the strategies employed during the translation process.

Literature Review

Study on intensification is no longer new for researchers and linguists. It was early explored in the period from 1950s to 1990s by structural linguists and grammarians such as Francis (1958); Greenbaum (1970); Benzinger (1971); Quirk et al. (1972); Bolinger (1972); Backlund (1973); Quirk et al. (1985); Labov (1984); Alexander (1988); and Richards et al. (1992). These authors refer intensification to degree intensifying markers as adverbs or intensifiers that modify gradable adjectives or other adverbs.

Martin and White (2005) look at the language of intensification in a broader perspective and get it out of the rules of grammar. Intensification is divided into two separate sub-categories involving *isolating* and *infusing* items. To functional approach, intensification is no longer understood purely as a marker of intensity, but it can be understood as a conveyer of meaning of intensification. Therefore, it can be said that the signals for intensification are expanded in the lexical category such as adjectives, verbs, adverbs, or nouns. Greater importance is attached to the meaning of intensification than to its forms of expression. Based on the framework of Martin and White (2005), Doan (2022) describes *infusing* items in detail, terming this category *infusing intensifiers,* which is identifiable via adjectives, nouns, adverbs, adjective phrases and noun phrases.

In terms of translation, Vo (2011) investigated how English adverbs in Harry Potter were rendered into Vietnamese. She applied six translation strategies, five of which are taken from Vinay and Darbelnet (1958, 2004), involving *direct borrowing, loan translation, literal translation, transposition, modulation* and added strategy - *free translation.* Munday (2012, p. 31) discovers "loss of intensity of affect and a move to *implicitation* of attitude through paraphrase, generalization and omission" in TL translated versions. In addition, the author finds some transformations of intensity in the TL texts, however, the author has not yet discussed the translation strategies applied to the process of translating. Munday (2015) applies the Appraisal theory by Martin and White (2005) to the analysis of translation on the base of developing the findings in Munday (2012) so as to explore engagement and graduation resources in determining translator/interpreter positioning. Doan (2022) conducted a survey on the rendering of isolating intensification into Vietnamese. She pointed out six translation strategies used in the Vietnamese translation of isolating intensifiers namely *literal*, *modulation*, *transposition*, *restructuring*, *implicitation*, and *explicitation*. However, how infusing intensification is transferred into Vietnamese remains an open question.

2. Methodology

This study has been carried out using qualitative method and descriptive research with quantitative information in order to deal with two problems in the research questions: (i) considering what strategies used for rendering infusing intensification into Vietnamese; and (ii) investigating what shifts have been adopted in the Vietnamese translation of infusing

intensification.

Data Collection

Therefore, the first task of this study is to identify the data sources based on the stated research questions, which focus on the following issues under investigation:

(i) What are strategies used for rendering English infusing intensification into Vietnamese?

(ii) What shifts have been adopted in translating English infusing intensification into Vietnamese

The collected data comprise 200 instances of infusing intensification, which include expressions of intensity in processes and qualities. The data were taken from three selected English literary works representing critical and socialist realism from the mid-18th to mid-19th centuries namely *Vanity Fair* by Thackeray (1847)*, Wuthering Heights* by Brontë (1947) and *The Man of Property* by Galsworthy (1906). The Vietnamese translated versions - *Hội chợ phù hoa* by Trần Kiệm (2006)*, Đỉnh gió hú* by Nguyễn Vân Hà (2018)*, Người tư hữu* by Hoàng Túy and Cảnh Lâm (1986)*,* respectively have been used for translation analysis.

Infusing intensification for the study is grounded based on the linguistic theory of Appraisal developed by Martin and White (2005) with the aim of examining its realisations as manifested in English literary discourse. From a translation perspective, this study adopts the methodologies proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (2004) and Newmark (1988) to examine the strategies used in rendering the meaning of infusing intensification into Vietnamese, along with Catford's (2004) theoretical framework to analyze the shifts occurring in the translation process.

The collection of data was carried as follows. First, based on the criteria set for identifying infusing intensification, the researcher carried out the data collection by reading each literary work carefully, at the same time picking up all the samples, then putting them into the list of data denoting infusing intensification in qualities and process. Then, the Vietnamese translated equivalents of these samples were then identified for analysis. Next, based on the theoretical frameworks by Vinay and Darbelnet (2004) and Newmark (1988), the Vietnamese translated versions will be examined to determine the use of appropriate translation strategies. Lastly, drawing on Catford's (2004) theoretical framework, the study will identify translation shifts in rendering English infusing intensification into Vietnamese.

Data Analysis

Data analysis is the processing of the collected data to answer the research questions posed and draw conclusions about the research problems. Using the qualitative method, the analysis identifies strategies employed in transferring infusing intensification from English literary works into Vietnamese and examines the changes that occur during this process. In addition, statistical analysis is incorporated as a key component of the quantitative method. It provides numerical descriptions and distribution values, helping to reveal how infusing intensification is translated into Vietnamese and what changes occur in the translation process.

3. Theoretical Background

Infusing intensification

Infusing intensification is a language category known as any single lexical-grammatical item which can convey a meaning of the scaling (Martin & White, 2005), unlike *isolating intensification* realized as *intensifiers* which modify a particular type of function words. This means that "there is no separate lexical form conveying the sense of up-scaling or down-scaling", i.e. any single term itself can convey a meaning of the scaling (Martin & White, 2005, p. 143). This category refers to inherently intensive words that themselves bring an inherent intensity to a certain degree, which can be expressed through various parts of speech, including nouns, verbs, adjectives and even adverbs (Benzinger, 1971).

Martin and White (2005) determine three sub-groups of infusing intensification as (i) quality; (ii) process; (iii) modality. Doan (2022) clarifies and expands the concept of infusing intensification, defining it as (iv) the case of absolute values, and (v) infusing intensification via rhetorical devices, which refers to linguistic resources such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole and repetition. Infusing intensification indicates up/down-scaling of qualities such as *contented, happy, joyous*; *warm, hot, scalding*; or *(she performed) competently / skillfully / brilliantly* (Martin & White, 2005, p. 144). These cases of intensification can be exploited by means of nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Regarding the *infusing intensification of processes,* verbs themselves play a role in the process while indicating a specific degree in a scale such as *this disquieted me*, *this startled me*, *this frightened me*, *this terrified me* or *the water trickled out of the tap*, *flowed out of the tap*, *poured out of the tap*, *flooded out of the tap*, *the price inched up, the price rose, the price shot up*. As for the *infusing intensification via metaphor, the* figurative meanings of these devices indicate the intensification of processes or qualities.

Translation strategies

Newmark (1988) points out that the primary focus of translation theory is to provide applicable translation methods to the broadest possible range of texts or text-categories, classified into eight distinct methods: (i) word-for-word translation; (ii) literal translation; (iii) faithful translation; (iv) semantic translation; (v) adaptation; (vi) free translation; (vii) idiomatic translation; and (viii) communicative translation. Furthermore, he outlies seven strategies for metaphor translation: (i) reproducing the same image in the TL, (ii) replacing the image in the SL with a standard TL image, (iii) translating metaphor by simile, retaining the image, (iv) translating metaphor by simile plus sense, (v) converting metaphor to its sense, (vi) deletion, and (vii) combining the same metaphor combined with sense.

As for Vinay and Darbelnet (2004), translation strategies are divided into two main categories: *direct,* and *oblique,* which altogether encompass seven procedures. Specifically, direct translation consists of *borrowing, calque* and *literal translation* whereas oblique translation involves *transposition, modulation, equivalence* and *adaptation.* It can be interesting to note that the first three strategies proposed by Newmark (1988) correspond to direct (literal) translation in Vinay and Darbelnet (2004). Newmark (1988) emphasizes that *literal translation* converts SL grammatical constructions to their nearest TL equivalents but renders the lexical words singly, out of context, while Vinay and Darbelnet (2004) consider it the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text.

Baker (1996), however, suggests some strategies of translation which are considered as universals of translation namely *explicitation, simplification or leveling out. Explicitation* is understood as "an overall tendency to spell things out rather than leave them implicit" (ibid., p. 180), described as 'extra information' while Vinay and Darbelnet (1995, p. 170) consider it "gain of information". Simplification is regarded as the tendency to "simplify the language used in translation" (Baker, 1996, p. 181). Leveling out described as "the tendency of translated text to gravitate towards the centre of a continuum" (ibid., p. 184). In similar vein, in the category of translation universals, Toury (2004) regards *explicitation, implicitation* or *simplification* as kinds of shifts in translation, of which *explicitation* and *simplification* are considered as *up-rank shift and down-rank shift* respectively by Le (2014); *implicitation* is described as a "stylistic translation technique which consists of making what is explicit in the SL implicit in the TL, relying on the context or the situation for conveying the meaning" (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995, p. 344). As for *explicitation*, Klaudy and Károly (2005) mention five types: (i) SL unit with a more general meaning replaced by a TL unit with a more specific meaning; (ii) the meaning of a SL unit distributed over several units in the TL; (iii) new meaningful elements appearing in the TL text; (iv) one sentence in the ST divided into two or several sentences in the TT, and (v) SL phrases extended or 'raised' to clause level in the TT.

Translation Shifts

According to Jakobson (2004), translation does not merely replace isolated code-units; instead, it substitutes entire messages from one language into another. As for Catford (1965), it is not the entirety of a SL text which is translated, that is, replaced by TL equivalents. This means that there will certainly be correspondent shifts in the replacement of textual material. As equivalence in meaning via translation is something to be achieved the ultimate goal of translation, it is important that the process of translation facilitate a certain degree of alteration or so-called shift in translation. Indeed, shifts can be considered as changes that occur both at the level of words, i.e. lexicogrammar, and at the sentence level in the translation process. Nida and Taber (2003) categorise two kinds of shifts in meaning, namely transferring from general to specific meaning and vice versa. In this case, shifts can be seen as direct results of the differences in the system of both languages. The differences can be determined in the form of vocabulary or structure, and the shift caused by the vocabulary will result in the shifts in meaning. Meanwhile, Catford (2004) suggests that translation shifts are defined as "the departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL". In this view, shifts are divided into two major types: *level shifts* and *category shifts.*

Level shifts refer to a *SL item at one linguistic level which has a TG translation equivalent at a different level*. As for this type, shifts from grammar to lexis and vice-versa are seen as the only possible cases.

Category shifts refer to *departures from formal correspondence in translation*. Shifts of this type are then sub-divided into *structure shifts, class shifts, unit shift (rank-change),* and *intra-system shifts. Structure shift* is the transformation of word sequence in a sentence. In grammar, structure-shifts can occur at all ranks. *Class shifts,* according to Catford (2004: 145), occur "when the translation equivalent of a SL item is a member of a different class from the

original item". Le (2014) defines *class shifts* as changes in word class, i.e. a shift from one part of speech in the SL text to another part speech in the TL text.

Rank/Unit shift is the changes of rank; that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the source language is a unit at a different rank in the target language. Le (2014) determines two kinds of rank/unit shifts: (i) *Up-rank shifts* being the addition of elements to the target text which are implicit from the original text also called *explicitation* as a procedure of translation proposed by Baker (1996, in Olohan 2004); and (ii) *Down-rank shifts* being regarded as the reverse of *explicitation* which is removed from the target text, also falling in the category of *simplification* as a strategy of translation.

4. Results and Discussion

A. Strategies used in rendering English infusing intensification into Vietnamese

Table 1 presents the distribution of the translation strategies, including *literal translation, modulation, transposition, restructuring, explicitation* and *metaphor translation*. The data show that *literal translation* is the most frequently used strategy in the Vietnamese rendering of infusing intensification referring to quality and process, occurring 80 instances (30.5%). This is followed by *transposition* and *restructuring*, with 49 instances each (18.7%), both referring to some syntactic changes in the TL text. *Explicitation* is also considered as a prevailing trend in the translation of infusing intensification in English literary discourse, as it occurs fairly frequently in the data with 41 instances (approximate 15.6%). *Modulation*, which varies the "form of the message due to the change in the point of view" (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2004, p. 89), is not commonly used, with 29 instances (11.1%). The infusing intensification embodied in some metaphors, which is translated via metaphor translation, occupies the lowest percentage, at just 5.3%. Interestingly, the data reveal that the number of coded occurrences exceeds the total number of tokens in the collected dataset. This discrepancy arises from the fact that multiple translation strategies often overlap during the rendering process.

Table 1. Distributions of Strategies used in rendering English infusing intensification into Vietnamese

Strategies	Freq.	%
Literal Translation	80	30.5
Modulation	29	11.1
Transposition	49	18.7
Restructuring	49	18.7
Metaphor Translation	14	5.3
Explicitation	41	15.6
Total	**262**	**100**

Infusing Intensification Rendered via Literal Translation

Newmark (1988) defines *word-for-word* translation as a form of interlinear transfer where the source text's word-order is preserved, and words are converted singly using their most common meanings, out of context. Meanwhile, *literal translation* converts the source-language grammatical constructions into their nearest corresponding forms in the target language, but lexical items are still translated individually, out of context. Both these strategies are considered as the *direct* (*literal*) translation of a SL text into a grammatically appropriate TL text (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2004). Le (2014) adds that when rendering a source-language text into a target-language one, the *literal* strategy may undergo alterations in structure and is then labelled as *literal transposition*. Via the investigation, both of the translation approaches – *literal translation* and *literal transposition* – are used in the literal transfer of infusing intensification into Vietnamese. However, most of the instances found in the data are *literal translation* without structural transformations, accounting for nearly 89%, while *literal transposition* involving structural transformations makes up the remaining – a small number only 11%.

It is evident that through *literal translation*, infusing intensifiers up-scaling or down-scaling qualities and processes preserve both their meanings and structures in the TL texts. This approach reveals that the necessity of rendering the semantic meaning of such language elements literally in the TL. The examples from [1] and [2] show that the meanings and realizations of infusing intensification in qualities embodied via adjectives and adverbs unchange in the target language translated versions, namely 'horrid' – 'khủng khiếp' as in [1] and 'coolly' – 'một cách lạnh nhạt' as in [2]. Similarly, the processes embodied via verbs, namely dragged – lê bước as in [3]; hated – căm ghét as in [4]; blustered – thổi ào ào and roared – gầm rú as in [5] preserve their meanings and keep their realizations as verbs unchanged in the target language translations. Let us consider the following examples.

[1] He loved her much too fondly to subject her to that <u>*horrid*</u> woman … (VF_E)
Inf_Adj

George yêu cô quá, không nỡ bắt cô phải chịu phụ thuộc vào mụ đàn bà <u>*khủng khiếp*</u> ấy… (VF_V)
Inf_Adj

[2] Bosinney replied <u>*coolly*</u>. (MP_E)
Inf_Adv

Bôxini trả lời <u>*một cách lạnh nhạt*</u>. (MP_V)
Inf_Adv

[3] I <u>*dragged*</u> up-stairs. (WH_E)
Inf_V

Tôi <u>*lê bước*</u> lên gác. (WH_V)
Inf_V

[4] … because he liked Heathcliff, all <u>*hated,*</u> and longed to do him an ill-turn. (WH_E)
Inf_V

… vì ông cưng Heathcliff nên mọi người ai cũng <u>*căm ghét*</u> và muốn ngược đãi hắn. (WH_V)
Inf_V

[5] A high wind <u>*blustered*</u> round the house, and <u>*roared*</u> in the chimney: …. (WH_E)

Inf_V Inf_V

Một cơn gió dữ *<u>thổi ào ào</u>* quanh nhà, *<u>gầm rú</u>* trong ống khói: … (WH_V)

Inf_V Inf_V

In addition to *literal translation*, a small number of infusing intensifiers are rendered into English via *literal transposition* including changes of word classes and shifts in phrasal structures in the TL text. Let us consider the examples of [6]-[9].

[6] She opened the drawing-room door *<u>softly</u>*, … (MP_E)
V + NP + Inf_Adv
Nàng *<u>khẽ</u> mở* cửa phòng khách, … (MP_V)
Inf_Adj + V + NP
[7] He trifled *<u>moodily</u>* with his strawberries. (MP_E)
V + Inf_Adv + PP
Lão *<u>buồn rầu</u>* nhấm nháp mấy quả dâu. (MP_V)
Inf_Adj + V + NP
[8]… and we set out for home, *<u>sadly</u>* out of sorts, every one of us … (WH_E)
Inf_Adv + PP
… rồi chúng tôi lên đường về nhà, người và vật đều *<u>buồn bã</u>*, … (WH_V)
NP + Inf_V
[9] I stared full at him, and *laughed <u>scornfully</u>*. (WH_E)
Inf_Adv
Tôi giương mắt nhìn hắn, *cười <u>khinh bỉ</u>*. (WH_V)
Inf_V

Evidently, the *literal transposition* may shift word-classes – specifically the case of the adverbs such as *'*softly' in [6] and 'moodily' in [7] transformed into the adjectives 'khẽ' and 'buồn rầu' respectively; or the adverb 'sadly' in [8] and 'scornfully' in [9] converted into the verb 'buồn bã' and 'khinh bỉ' respectively in the Vietnamese texts. At the same time, the strategy also alters the structure of verb phrases and without any changes in meanings of the original, namely the structure of 'V + Inf_Adv + PP' converted into 'Inf_Adj + V + NP' as in [7], and that of 'Inf_Adv + PP' converted into 'NP + Inf_V' as in [8]. Moreover, it can be seen that the word order is not preserved in the structure of the verb phrases in the Vietnamese translated versions.

Infusing Intensification Rendered via Explicitation

As mentioned earlier, *explicitation* is the addition of extra information to the target language text (Baker, 1996) or the strategy is described as "gain of information" in the target language text to make it explicit (Vinay and Darbelnet, 1995). Kláudy and Karoly (2005) mention five subtypes of explicitation including *(i)* SL unit with a more general meaning replaced by a TL unit with a more specific meaning; *(ii)* the meaning of a SL unit distributed over several units in the TL; *(iii)* new meaningful elements appeared in the TL text*; (iv)* one sentence in the ST divided into two or several sentences in the TT*; (v)* SL phrases extended or raised to clause level in the TT.

Of the five given criteria, the first form is prominently used, which is seen as 'specification' by adding semantic and informative items to produce a more specific meaning TL text, as illustrated in [10] – [15]. Meanwhile, the second criterion is known as 'addition'

involving inserting extra words into the target text, and the third one introduces entirely new meaningful elements in the TL text. Both of these can be effectively combined with the first method as seen in [16] – [18]. Let us consider the following examples.

[10] …, which quickly put colour into their *white faces.* (WH_E)

Inf_Adj

…, mang sắc hồng trở lại gương mặt *trắng bệch* của họ. (WH_V)

Inf_Adj

[11] Her present countenance had a wild vindictiveness in its *white* cheek … (WH_E)

Inf_Adj

Vẻ mặt mợ đậm nét thù hận hằn trên gò má *trắng bệch*, … (WH_V)

Inf_Adj

[12] The frock was of *light* silk. (WH_E)

Inf_Adj

Chiếc váy lụa *mỏng tang.* (WH_V)

Inf_Adj

[13] … with *set lips*, and eyes searching the throng; or again, with silent, parted lips …

Inf_Adj + N (MP_E)

Môi *mím chặt*, mắt tìm kiếm trong đám đông; hay hơn nữa, môi hé mở lặng thinh …

VP (MP_V)

Looking at the examples above, the translations clearly use the criterion '*specification'* through two key lexical choices when rendering 'white' as 'trắng bệch' in [11], 'light' as 'mỏng tang' in [12] and 'set lips' as 'môi mím chặt' in [13]. First, the source texts use the neutral adjectives such as 'white' and 'light' which are transferred into 'trắng bệch' and 'mỏng tang' in the target texts. By adding the morphemes 'bệch' and 'tang', the translations shift from generic descriptions to far more nuanced ones. The additional element as in [11] specifies the exact shade – a pale shade, effectively capturing the character's intense anger and distress in the context; and that as in [12] highlights an extreme degree of thinness, yielding a smoother and more evocative Vietnamese rendering. Similarly, when describing facial features, 'set' denotes a state of being 'fixed or firmly closed' without explicating the precise physical gesture. Since Vietnamese lacks a direct adjective counterpart meaning for 'fixed lips' that sounds natural, the translator replaces the general term with a lexical unit used as a combination of much higher semantic density (more specific / semantically informative): the verb – adverb structure 'mím + chặt'→ 'mím chặt' (tightly pressed together).

[14] The boy had *loved* the theatre. (MP_E)

Cậu bé *rất mê* nhà hát. (MP_V)

Inf_V → VP

[15] Miss Cathy and Heathcliff were now very thick; but Hindley *hated* him. (WH_E)

Inf_V

Lúc ấy, Cathy và Heathcliff đã rất khăng khít, song Hindley *thù ghét* thằng nhóc.

Inf_V + Inf_V (WH_V)

The process of *specification* is also seen in the instances of [14] and [15]. As used in [14], the verb 'loved' captures different emotional shades, extending from mild fondness to deep devotion. The rendering of 'love' as 'rất mê' – deeply passionate – in Vietnamese narrows down a generalized emotion. By choosing a lexical item that is semantically more informative, the translator highlights how deeply the boy is captivated by the stage, transforming a vague feeling into a concrete mental state. Likewise, the rendering of 'hated' as 'thù ghét' in the target text as shown in [15] relies directly on the technique of *specification*. In English, the verb 'hated' denotes general animosity or strong dislike. When rendered into Vietnamese, however, it converts into the compound verb 'thù ghét' – a combination of 'thù' (enmity/grudge) and 'ghét' (hatred). This translation choice explicitly clarifies the nature of Hindley's emotion, not merely an abstract emotion, but a deeply rooted personal vendetta. Adding a lexical item rich in nuances of meaning to the target text accurately reflects the context of the source language.

In some cases, English infusing items are transformed into Vietnamese through the use of both *specification* and *addition* strategies. The simultaneously combined application of these strategies makes the translations achieve higher semantic precision and narrative clarity, the intensity of the state and the action explicit in the target language text. Let us consider the following cases.

[16] … her face *sparkle* as he often saw it sparkle at other people (MP_E)
Mắt nàng *sáng hẳn lên* như hắn thường thấy mỗi khi nàng nhìn người khác (MP_V)
Inf_V → VP

As shown in [16], the strategy of *explicitation* used in rendering 'sparkle' into Vietnamese as 'sáng hẳn lên' demonstrates a clear choice of 'specification'. While the verb 'sparkle' refers generally to emitting small flashes of light, the Vietnamese rendering 'sáng hẳn lên' specifies the precise change in expression – a noticeable brightening or narrows the general visual effect down to a precise, dynamic change in expression – specifically, a sudden and unmistakable brightening of the face. Furthermore, by specifying the subject shift toward 'Mắt nàng' (her eyes) rather than a literal facial shimmer, the translator clarifies the exact physical locus of the brightness, bringing the visual focus into sharp, unambiguous detail. Beyond specifying the manner of brightness, the translator incorporates the aspectual modifier 'hẳn lên'. This addition of an extra element introduces a clear sense of degree and progression that is not explicitly present in the original verb, emphasizing the noticeable contrast in her appearance before and after the moment.

[17] … it has been, in the first place, for rid-ding her of some person whom she *hated* (VF_E)
… song lần thứ nhất, là vì Chúa trời đã giúp cô thoát khỏi tay mấy kẻ cô *ghét cay ghét đắng!* (VF_V) Inf_V → Idiom
[18] A dumb and grumbling anger *swelled* his bosom. (MP_E)
Một sự giận dữ ấm ức *sôi lên* trong ngực lão. (MP_V)
Inf_V → VP

Likewise, the case of [17] illustrates how *specification* and *addition* work in enhancing the emotional depth of the target language translated texts. Specifically, translating the general verb 'hated' – feeling of dislike or resentment into the Vietnamese idiom 'ghét cay ghét đắng' narrows a broad sense of animosity into a precise, deep-rooted bitterness (specification). Simultaneously, incorporating the expressive modifiers 'cay, đắng' adds semantic weight

(addition). By substituting a plain term with a more evocative idiom, the translator accentuates the character's emotional intensity, elevating a routine narrative detail into a powerful psychological reflection. In [18], the verb 'swelled', which literally denotes physical expansion or gradual rising, is rendered as 'sôi lên' (boiling up). Here, *specification* clarifies the exact nature of the emotional surge, and a metaphor – *anger swelled his bosom* introduces an entirely new meaningful element in the TL text. Replacing a purely physical description with a metaphor effectively articulates the character's internal turmoil, transforming a subtle physical feeling into a strong emotional expression.

Infusing Intensification Rendered via Restructuring and Transposition

Nida and Taber (2003) identify *restructuring* as one of the three important stages of translation process – *analysis, transfer,* and *restructuring*. While *transfer* concerns semantic and structural adjustments, *restructuring* focuses on re-constructing source-meaning and re-organizing information flow so as to reshape lexical and grammatical elements (Le, 2014). Notably, this stage naturally prompts various translation strategies. For instance, achieving target-language equivalence may require the addition of extra elements – known as *explicitation* – or need changes in grammatical structures *(transposition)* and variations of message forms (*modulation*). Consequently, the concurrent use of these strategies explains why coded instances outnumber the total tokens in the dataset.

The data show that the re-organisation of information structure occurs alongside lexical and grammatical transformations in the Vietnamese translation, and these translation techniques preserve, raise or lower the intensity of infusing intensifiers in the target language text.

Firstly, the re-constructing the SL meaning and the re-ordering of information structure remains the level of infusing intensifiers in the target language text as found in [19] - [22]. To be more specific, the verb 'stared' as in [19] is translated into the target language text as 'đau đáu nhìn' instead of 'nhìn chằm chằm'; 'glimmered' as in [20] transfered to 'loe lét chiếu' instead of 'le lói'. The restructuring creates structure shifts as *transposition* from a verb (V) to a verb phrase (Adj + V). *Restructuring* is also seen through the examples of [21] and [22]. That is, the case of 'deep-set eyes steadily' as in [21] is restructured into a clause 'cặp mắt sâu hoắm … chăm chăm nhìn', or that of 'gaudily-painted' as in [22] is also converted into a clause 'sơn phết lòe loẹt' in the TL text, which are considered as up-*rank shift* by Le (2014).

[19] And now he stared at her so earnestly that I thought the very intensity of his gaze would bring tears into his eyes. (WH_E)
Rồi hắn *đau đáu nhìn* mợ, đến nỗi tôi tưởng cái nhìn chăm chú ấy sẽ khiến hắn trào nước mắt. (WH_V)

Inf_V→ VP [Inf_Adj + V]

[20] …, a light *glimmered* through the squares at the top of the bed. (WH_E)

…, ánh sáng *loe lét chiếu* xuyên qua những ô vuông trên nóc giường tôi nằm. (WH_V)
Inf_V → VP [Inf_Adj +V]

[21] He kept his *deep-set eyes steadily* on the enemy. (MP_E)
Cặp mắt sâu hoắm của lão chăm chăm nhìn thằng kẻ thù. (MP_V)
NP [Inf_Adj+N] + Inf_Adv → Cl {NP+VP [Inf_Adj +V]}

[22] … three *gaudily-painted* canisters disposed along its ledge. (WH_E)

Ba hộp trà *sơn phết lòe loet* lăn lóc bên mép bệ. (WH_V)

Inf_Adj → Cl

Secondly, *restructuring* increases the intensity level of intensifiers when translated into Vietnamese as illustrated in [23]. Here, the infusing intensifier (*loved*) in the source language text has been rendered as a Vietnamese verb modified by an isolating intensifier (an adverb), structured as '*VP → Int_Adv (Pre-modifier) + V'*. The addition of the isolating intensifier 'rất' and the reconstruction of the SL meaning through the choice of its target language equivalent 'mê' heighten the emotional intensity of 'love'. The process of restructuring leads to the transposition from a lexical word (verb) to a phrase (verb phrase), illustrating a case of *up-rank shift* as classified by Le (2014).

[23] … *loved* the theatre. (MP_E)

… *rất mê* nhà hát (MP_V)

Inf_V → Int_Adv + Inf_V

Lastly, *restructuring* lowers the intensity level of intensifiers when translated into Vietnamese, as illustrated in [24]. Here, reconstructing the SL meaning involves translating the verb 'glared' into the target language text as 'trừng mắt nhìn' instead of 'nhìn trừng trừng'. The infusing intensifier (glared) in the source language text has been rendered into a verb phrase in the Vietnamese version, serving as a case of *transposition*. Unlike Example [23], reconstructing the meaning and additing a lexical word 'mắt' to the target language text decrease the emotional intensity of 'glare'. The restructuring process also leads to the transposition from a lexical word (verb) to a phrase (verb phrase), illustrating a case of *up-rank shift* as classified by Le (2014).

[24] … but she only *glared* about her for an instant, and then rushed from the room. (WH_E)

… nhưng mợ chỉ *trừng mắt nhìn* quanh rồi bỏ lên phòng. (WH_V)

Inf_V→ VP

Infusing Intensification Rendered via Modulation

The data show that *modulation* is the least common strategy applied in the Vietnamese translation of infusing intensification, appearing in only 29 of the 200 analyzed cases alongside *literal, restructuring, transposition*, and *explicitation* strategies. As shown by Vinay & Darbelnet (2004, p. 89), *modulation* reflects a "variation of the form of the message due to the change in the point of view". The data analysis reveals that English infusing intensification can be translated into Vietnamese using the modulation strategy, which raises the level of intensity as illustrated in examples [25-28].

A change in point of view, which leads to a variation in form occurs through the rendering of infusing intensification seen in Examples [25] - [27]. This represents an expansion through the use of idioms such as 'nẫu ruột nẫu gan', 'đỏ mặt tía tai' and 'nửa ngây nửa dại' in the target language translated versions. It is interesting to note that *modulation* changes the form of message from a lexical word (as in [25] and [26]), or a phrase (as in [27]) to an idiom, or rather reflects a change in point of view.

To illustrate the application of *modulation* in translating English infusing intensification into Vietnamese, specifically in raising the intensity of infusing items, let us examine the examples of [25] and [26]. In the source language, 'prostrated' denotes a state of being completely physically or mentally overwhelmed, exhausted, or crushed by an event ('by the blow'). Instead of choosing a literal translation describing physical collapse as 'bị suy sụp' or 'bị gục ngã', the translator employs a highly expressive Vietnamese idiom: 'nẫu ruột nẫu gan'. Here, the perspective shifts from describing a state of passive physical/mental collapse (prostrated) to expressing deep, agonizing emotional pain localized in internal organs according to Vietnamese cultural conceptualization (nẫu ruột nẫu gan). Utilizing a four-syllable figurative idiom significantly elevates the expressive tone and emotional impact rising of the level of intensity, allowing Vietnamese readers to feel the character's grief more vividly. Similarly, 'blush' in the source language text with the literal core meaning of 'flushing red' is modulated into a vivid, intense emotional/physical state in the Vietnamese idiom 'đỏ mặt tía tai' - flushed with rage/indignation. Using the translation strategy of modulation rises intensity of the infusing intensifier, shifting from a lexical word to a four-syllable Vietnamese idiom describing an overt physical reaction of anger.

[25] Aunt Juley stayed in her room, *prostrated* by the blow. (MP_E)

Bà Juli vẫn ở trong phòng riêng, *nẫu ruột nẫu gan* vì cái tin sét đánh đó. (MP_V)

[26] James, most averse at the first *blush* to accepting any news confirmatory of his own poignant suspicions. (MP_E)

Jêmxơ *đỏ mặt tía tai*, lão ghét nghe bất kì tin gì có tính chất xác nhận mỗi hoài nghi chua chát của mình. (MP_V)

[27] I thought she was *half silly*. (WH_E)

Tôi nghĩ mợ *nửa ngây nửa dại*. (WH_V)

As has been mentioned earlier, *modulation* is seen as a variation of the form of the message due to the change in the point of view, more exactly it is the form of *fixed* and *free modulation* (Vinay & Darbelnet, p. 89, 2004). To illustrate this point, *fixed modulation* transforms a negative SL expression into a positive TL expression and vice versa as clarified in [28], whereas *free modulation* as seen in [29] refers to a technique that produces a new rendering on each occasion (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2004, p.89). Let us consider the following examples.

[28] They separated, crying *quietly.* (MP_E)

Họ chia tay nhau khóc *không ra tiếng.* (MP_V)

MODULATION {POSITIVE EXPRESSION → NEGATIVE EXPRESSION}

Rendering the source phrase 'crying quietly' as 'khóc không ra tiếng' heightens the narrative's emotional intensity. The expression 'không ra tiếng' mirrors an acute state of anguish, emphasizing the bittersweet grief of separation.

[29] June had *flown out* at him, or something; she was as touchy as she could be! (MP_E)

Jun đã *nổi cơn tam bành* với chàng hay gì gì đó. Con bé chúa hay giận dỗi. (MP_V)

Free modulation reflects 'a new rendering' in the example of [29] as a context-based translation. Rather than relying on a fixed, word-for-word equivalent, the translator alters the point of view to convey the source text's emotion and nuance naturally in the target language. The phrasal verb 'flown out at' – which literally denotes a sudden, hostile outburst – is flexibly

rendered into Vietnamese as the idiom ‘nổi cơn tam bành’. This choice captures the character's intense anger effectively within the specific context.

B. Shifts in the Vietnamese translation of infusing intenfication

Table 2. Distributions of Shifts in the Vietnamese translation of Infusing Intenfication

Shift Types	Freq.	%
Class shift	16	23.5
Structure shift	9	13.2
Rank shift	43	63.3
Total	**68**	**100**

The data reveal three types of shifts when translating infusing intensification into Vietnamese: *class shifts, structure shifts* and *rank shifts*. Among the types of shifts, *rank shift* accounts for the largest proportion, making up 43 cases (63.3%); followed by *class shift* with 16 cases (23.5%). *Structure shift* occurs with the lowest frequency, with just 9 cases (13.2%).

Class shift, defined as changes in word class, involves transforming adverbs into adjectives as seen in [6] & [7]; adverbs into verbs as seen in [8] & [9]. *Structure shift* occurs in cases involving adjective phrases (AdjP) translated into verb phrases (VP) such as ‘absolutely certain’ into ‘tuyệt đối tin chắc’; adverb phrases (AdvP) translated into adjective phrases, such as ‘very sadly’ into ‘vô cùng buồn bả’; or changes in the internal structure of verb phrases, such as:

VP [V + NP] → VP [Pre-M + V] (dropped his glance → thôi nhìn nàng);
VP [V + Adv] → VP [Adj + V] (muttered gloomily → buồn rầu lẩm bẩm);
VP [V + PP] → VP [V + Ptcl.) (sprang to his feet → đứng phắt dậy); and
VP [Adv + V+ Ptcl.] → VP[Adv + V] (slowly died away → dần dần mất hút).

Out of 43 cases of *rank shift,* 40 involve *up-rank shift*, while only 3 are *down-rank shift*. *Up-rank shift*, the addition of elements to the target text which are implicit in the original text, involves a variety of ranks, ranging from lexical words to phrases (V→VP; N→NP; Adj→ AdjP; N/V → Idioms); or ranging from phrases to idioms or clauses (AdjP → Idioms; AdjP → Cl; NP → Cl). The following are some examples.

[30] Swithin <u>*stared at*</u> her; a dusky orange dyed his cheeks. (MP_E)

Xuydin <u>*trố mắt nhìn*</u> Airini, má lão ửng đỏ. (MP_V)

Inf_V → VP

[31] … expressed his <u>*disgust*</u> with the fellow. (MP_E)

… đã tỏ <u>*thái độ ghê tởm*</u> đối với hắn. (MP_V)

Inf_N → NP

[32] … a <u>*poor*</u> fellow to run away with a rich girl. (VF_E)

… một anh con trai <u>*nghèo xác xơ*</u> đi trốn với một cô con gái nhà giàu. (VF_V)

Inf_Adj → AdjP

[33] … neither of them was a *cold-blooded* man. (MP_E)

… cha con họ không phải là kẻ có *trái tim khô lạnh*. (MP_V)

Inf_Adj → Cl

[34] … his *angry glare*; *white faces* … (WH_E)

… *cặp mắt nảy lửa*; *gương mặt trắng bệch* … (WH_V)

NP → Cl

[35] … a *numb feeling at his heart*. (MP_E)

… *lòng lão tái tê*. (MP_V)

NP → Cl

The paper analyses the translation strategies applied to the rendering of infusing intensification into Vietnamese. First, it is *literal translation* is defined as 'the closest structural equivalents' (Newmark, 1988), or as the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text by Vinay and Darbelnet (2004). Through this strategy, the majority of the infusing items preserve both their meanings and structures in the TL texts. Second, the strategy of *explicitation* is widely used, replacing general meanings with more specific nuances in the TL text through the addition of morphemes, which is known as *specification* or 'an overall tendency to specify things rather than leave them implicit', as indicated by Baker (1996). This type of addition raises the intensity embedded in the original infusing items, thereby making the expression of intensity simply more explicit in the translation.

Via *explicitation*, this paper also demonstrates how extra elements of meaning are added to the TL text – referred to as *addition;* and how new meaningful elements are created in the TL text. Notably, the simultaneous combination of *specification* and *addition* can generate idiomatic expressions such as 'ghét cay ghét đắng' in the TL text to enhance the level of intensity. Furthermore, replacing a general meaning with a more TL unit with a more specific unit, adding extra elements, or introducing new meaningful elements into the TL text may lead to some transformations, such as transposition. These transformations involve an *up-rank shift* from adjectives to adjective phrases as in [32]; adjectives to verb phrases as in [13] or nouns to noun phrases (e.g. disgust into thái độ ghê tởm); verbs to verb phrases as in [14], [16] & [18]; verbs to idioms as in [17]; nouns to clauses such as 'shining eyes' into 'cặp mắt ngời sáng lạ thường'; 'white cheek, and a bloodless lip and scintillating eye' into 'gò má trắng bệch, đôi môi tái nhợt, cặp mắt lóe sáng'.

Third, this paper investigates the strategies of *restructuring* and *transposition* as translation universals. *Restructuring* involves reconstructing the SL meaning and reordering the information structure (Le, 2014). This reconstruction process requires certain lexical and grammatical alterations in the TL text, which are regarded as *transposition*, as illustrated in cases [19]-[24]. Therefore, *restructuring* is usually accompanied by *transposition*. Additionally, the process of restructuring (*Nida & Taber, 2003*) closely interacts with syntactic and semantic transformations, specifically *explicitation*, and *modulation* to adjust the force of

infusing items in the target text. Given that English and Vietnamese differ in their structural and lexical patterns, translators frequently employ these strategies simultaneously during the restructuring stage to achieve appropriate equivalence.

Changing the information structure through *transposition*, particularly via up-rank shift (Le, 2014), plays an important role in maintaining or shifting intensity levels. When maintaining the original intensity level, as seen in Examples [19]-[22], single lexical items or compact structures of the source text are restructured into descriptive target language equivalents. For instance, translating the verb 'stared' into 'đau đau nhìn' or the phrase 'deep-set eyes steadily' into the clause 'cặp mắt sâu hoắm... chăm chăm nhìn' illustrates how restructuring converts single-word units into multi-word combinations to preserve the semantic weight of the original infusing terms. Furthermore, the results indicate that restructuring can actively alter intensity levels in two main directions:

- **Intensity Up-scaling:** In Example [23], the restructuring process transforms the source infusing verb 'loved' into a verb phrase containing an isolating intensifier (rất mê). This transposition from a verb to a verb phrase (*up-rank shift*) combined with explicitation increases the emotional strength of the target text.
- **Intensity Lowering:** Conversely, in Example [24], translating 'glared' into 'trừng mắt nhìn' lowers the emotional intensity. Re-constructing the source meaning through the addition of the lexical word 'mắt' reshapes the compact infusing verb into a descriptive verb phrase, resulting in an up-rank shift that softens the overall force.

Finally, the findings indicate that *modulation* (*Vinay & Darbelnet, 2004*) is the least frequent strategy in rendering English infusing intensification into Vietnamese, representing only 29 out of 200 cases. Despite its low frequency compared to other strategies such as *literal translation*, *restructuring*, *transposition*, and *explicitation*, *modulation* plays a crucial role in elevating emotional intensity through perspective shifts.

A notable thing in the data is that *modulation* raises the intensity level of infusing intensifiers primarily by shifting the cognitive perspective from direct physical or mental states to culturally grounded expressions. As demonstrated in Examples [25]-[27], this perspective shift often involves a structural expansion, converting single lexical words or simple phrases into vivid four-syllable Vietnamese idioms such as 'nẫu ruột nẫu gan', 'đỏ mặt tía tai', and 'nửa ngây nửa dại'. Specifically, in Example [25], rather than rendering the source item 'prostrated' literally as 'bị suy sụp' or 'bị gục ngã', the translator shifts from a passive description of collapse to an internal organ-based emotional conceptualization ('nẫu ruột nẫu gan'). This change in point of view replaces a standard descriptive verb with a culturally specific figurative idiom, thereby significantly heightening the emotional impact and expressive force in the TL text. A similar case is seen in Example [26], where the physical reaction described by 'blush' is modulated into 'đỏ mặt tía tai'. By recasting a basic physical state as an overt, intense physical manifestation of anger or indignation, the modulation strategy converts a single word into a four-syllable idiom, effectively amplifying the intensity of the original infusing item.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, the investigation shows that the Vietnamese translation of infusing intensification employs several strategies, including (i) *literal translation*, which renders lexical words singly, out of context' (Newmark, 1988), and is described as word-for-word translation or the 'direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text' by Vinay and Darbelnet (2004); (ii) *explicitation*, which specifies a SL unit carrying a more general meaning – specification, or adds some extra elements in the TL texts – addition; (iii) *restructuring*, which reorganizes information structures; (iv) *transposition*, which reconstructs grammatical structures; (v) *modulation*, which varies the form of the message. *Specification* and *addition* serve as essential tools for achieving accurate meaning. Rather than providing literal equivalents, the translation process relies on substituting generic items with semantically richer Vietnamese units. Additionally, the interaction between *specification* and additional semantic units demonstrates the flexibility required in the Vietnamese translation. Rendering infusing intensification into Vietnamese via restructuring is not merely a matter of direct word replacement. Instead, it involves structural reorganization and transposition, where decisions made during the restructuring stage directly dictate whether the intensity of infusing intensifiers is preserved, raised, or lowered in the target text. Furthermore, by changing the point of view and utilizing rich idiomatic structures, modulation allows translators to raise the intensity level of infusing intensifiers, ensuring that the target text conveys the heightened emotional resonance required by Vietnamese linguistic and cultural norms. Applying these strategies in translation naturally requires certain adjustments to establish equivalence in the target text: namely class shift, structure shift, and rank shift. It is hoped that these findings can be of some help to learners of English into their study and practice of translation.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author Contributions

All authors contributed to the conception and design of the study, drafted and critically revised the manuscript, and approved the submitted version.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

The authors declare that no generative AI or AI-assisted technology was used in the preparation

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