


Translating Vietnamese Sentences Containing the Word *Rồi* into English Related to English Tenses

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ABSTRACT

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In Vietnamese¹, *rồi* can help translators choose appropriate English tenses to translate Vietnamese sentences into English. With this study, the researcher wants to indicate the influence of *rồi* in four Vietnamese works² sentences on their translators' selection for appropriate English tenses to have semantically equivalent translations. The study refers to six tenses of simple present (a), simple past (b), present perfect (c), past perfect (d), simple future (e), and near future (f). These sentences were translated into English with (a) if *rồi* denotes the emphasis on the reality of the event. (b), (c), and (d) are preferred when *rồi* implies the event that happened in the past. However, using (e) and (f) is not dependent upon the occurrence of *rồi* because this word does need combination with other words or phrases to denote the meaning of the future. Therefore, understanding the influence of *rồi* in Vietnamese in different contexts helps Vietnamese people learning English know how to choose the appropriate English tenses when translating Vietnamese sentences containing it into English.

Introduction

According to Phan, Nguyen & Nguyen (2022: 118), “most Vietnamese students who learn English often make mistakes when learning Vietnamese-English translation because there are many differences between Vietnamese and English”. One of them is about tenses because “English has a very clear distinction between tenses while the tense distinction in Vietnamese is not clear” Huynh (2012: 30). This results in the fact that translating Vietnamese sentences

¹ Up to now, many linguists across the world have held different views about whether or not Vietnamese has a system of tenses akin to the one in English. However, the study does not get into this endless argument.

² The researcher used the corpora of four Vietnamese literature works, including *Diary of a cricket (A)*, *Paris through closed eyes (B)*, *Beloved Oxford (C)*, *I see yellow flowers in the green grass (D)*, for his paper.

with modal verbs, including *rồi*, into English has posed a big challenge to Vietnamese people learning this language. In fact, the occurrence of the word *rồi* in Vietnamese sentences might make translators produce translations with different English tenses. Some suppose that this word denotes an event that happened in the past, thereby choosing the past simple tense for their English translation. For example, '*Em đã hỏi chú Đàn rồi*' (in *I see yellow flowers in the green grass*) was translated as '*I asked him already*' (in the English version). Some reckon that the word *rồi* simply puts the emphasis on the reality of utterances. The simple present tense was used in this case. Take '*Anh đói bụng lắm rồi*' (in *Beloved Oxford*) and its English translation as '*I am very hungry already*' as a good example. On the other hand, others choose the near future tense in English to translate Vietnamese sentences with the word *rồi*. '*Thôi sắp phải lên máy bay rồi, em stop nhe*'; (in *Paris through closed eyes*), and its English translation as '*Well, we are going to board the plane shortly, so I'll stop here*' are an example. We can see that the occurrence of the word *rồi* in the above examples helps translators produce corresponding English translations with different tenses in this language. A question that needs raising here is how we can select appropriate English tenses to translate Vietnamese sentences with the word *rồi*. Trinh (2014: 29) emphasized the importance of the word *rồi* in applying translations with Conventional conserved Implicature from English into Vietnamese. This was because the word *rồi* "shows very clearly the orderly nature of action" (Trinh, 2014: 26). Also, Truong (2015: 1) clarified the role of *rồi* in conveying the perfect meaning in English into Vietnamese through a combination of Vietnamese grammar with the occurrence frequency of these words along with other words, like '*đã*' and '*chưa*' in the literary work named "The Old Man and the Sea". These are the motivation and inspiration for the researcher to conduct this study, which aims to clarify the influences of the word *rồi* on translators' selection of English tenses, not just perfect tenses when translating Vietnamese sentences containing it into English. Understanding the influence of the word *rồi* in Vietnamese with different contexts helps Vietnamese people learning English know how to decide on English tenses to have the semantically equivalent translation of Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English.

Scope of the research and research progress/method

The scope of this study

This study does not enter into the endless argument over whether the Vietnamese has a system of tenses like the one in English. In addition, the study clarifies the meanings of the word *rồi* without analyzing its syntactic function and its equivalent words, phrases, or structures in English. Accordingly, the research delves into clarifying the influence of the word *rồi* in the original Vietnamese sentences on translators' selection for the appropriate English tense to have semantically equivalent translations of them into English. There are 06 English tenses that the study refers to, including

- *The simple present tense*
- *The simple past tense*
- *The present perfect tense*
- *The past perfect tense*
- *The simple future tense*
- *The near future tense*

The progress/method of conducting this study

First, the researcher collects some Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rôi* and the corresponding English translations from the software *CLC Parallel Corpus Tool*³ mentioned in Section 1 as the data to present the meanings of the word *rôi*. Introducing the English translations only aims to give readers a brief overview of the two matters. Firstly, the meanings of the word *rôi* and other words are involved (if any) in expressing their meanings in the Vietnamese sentences. Secondly, the possibility of applying English tenses when translating the original Vietnamese sentences contain the word *rôi* into English.

Next, the researcher has statistics on the frequency of occurrence of (i) Vietnamese and English words related to translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rôi* into English, including the word *rôi*, (ii) the English tenses used due to the influence of the word *rôi* and other words involved, in the literary works used as the researcher's research materials. This statistic helps the study draw objective conclusions about translators' selection for the appropriate English tenses to have semantically equivalent translations of Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rôi* into English.

Finally, the work summarizes the meanings of the word *rôi* in Vietnamese and its influence on the translators' decision to choose the English tense for semantically equivalent translation. On the other hand, the conclusion also helps Vietnamese people who learn English apply suitable translations in respect of tenses in English from Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rôi*.

Literature review

In general, the study of translating a particular word in Vietnamese as a source language into English as a target language has not been unfamiliar to researchers in linguistics. Although the word *rôi* has appeared in studies in Vietnam, as far as the researcher is concerned, no researchers have focused on clarifying the meanings of the word *rôi* when translating the Vietnamese sentences containing it semantically equivalently into English in respect of English tenses. Specifically, he selects the following three studies, which mentioned the word *rôi* and its influences on translating utterances with conventional implicature and conveying the meaning of perfect. Thereby drawing some relevant comments.

Rôi and translation with conversed conventional implicature

According to Trinh (2014: 26), the word *rôi* "shows very clearly the orderly nature of action", so it is necessary to apply the translations with Conventional conserved Implicature from English into Vietnamese. Through analyzing utterances occurring in some short stories written by the writer Ernest Hemingway, the author emphasized the influence of the word *rôi* when translating the original English sentences into Vietnamese. In this way, translators can have a

³ The researcher decided to use this software because of the variety and reliability of linguistic corpus collected by Assoc. Prof. Dinh Dien, a well-known computing linguist and programmer in Vietnam.

semantically equivalent translation from English into Vietnamese.

Rồi with the meaning of perfect

The meaning of perfect expressed by modal verbs in Vietnamese like *đã, rồi, chưa* has been an appealing topic in English teaching and learning in Vietnam. The idea here is that the words in question, when occurring alone or having combination with other words, can denote the meaning of perfect, thereby choosing appropriate perfect tenses in English for translation. Truong (2016: 1) showed that it is worth researching this matter “in order to help students accurately translate the meaning of perfect form - a meaning expressed by modal verbs like *đã, rồi, chưa* from Vietnamese into English” (Truong, 2016: 1). Previously, this author had clarified the role of the word *rồi* in conveying the perfect meaning in English into Vietnamese through a combination of Vietnamese grammar based on the English short story *The Old Man and the Sea* by the writer Ernest Hemingway and the modern romantic novel *Southern Lights*. According to Truong (2015: 20), the perfect English form is marked mainly in Vietnamese by the combination of “*đã + telic verb phrase, đã/(đã)+ telic verb phrase + rồi or chưa + telic verb phrase*”. For this reason, when translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English, translators need to pay attention to other words like *đã* and *chưa* to denote the meaning of perfect in English.

The researcher agrees with the statement of Truong (2015: 1) that the combination of the group of words, including *đã, rồi, and chưa*, helps translate the meaning of perfect form from Vietnamese into English which many people know in the name of perfect tenses. As a result, with this paper, the researcher continues to clarify the influence of the word *rồi* on the translators’ decision to choose the English tenses, including perfect tenses, for semantically equivalent translation in the four contemporary Vietnamese literary works mentioned at the beginning of the paper. To do this, the researcher uses the Vietnamese Dictionary concerning the meanings of the word *rồi* by Hoang et al. (2003: 832) as the main research basis.

The meanings of the word rồi in Vietnamese

According to Hoang et al. (2003: 832), the word *rồi* in Vietnamese has the following meanings.

1. Indicate that the aforesaid thing which has been done belongs to the past time.

Example 1:

1a. Khi tôi mới mua cái điện thoại này thì nó (đã) bị hư mất rồi.

Suggested translation: 1a’. When I bought this cellular phone, it came damaged.

In the sentence called 1a, the word *rồi* shows that the broken phone is the problem that happened before the time of speaking. Specifically, that phone was out of order *khi tôi mới mua*. In addition, according to Diep (1996: 84-85), the adjuncts *đã* and *rồi* do not need to occur together in the sentence called 1a; just one of them is sufficient to express the meaning of the sentence because both of them belong to “*the group of words implying the end*”. If there is an

occurrence of the word *đã* preceding the word *rồi*, "the word *rồi* has the same meaning as the word *xong*".

In the suggested English translation called 1a', the past tense is used to translate the words *đã*, *rồi* semantically equivalently from the Vietnamese sentence called 1a into English. In particular, the matter of the broken phone "happened in the past, ended, and the time is known" (Mai & Nguyen, 2011: 8) – *khi tôi mới mua*.

1b. Này! Ba nhâm nãy giờ thì con (đã) ăn năm cái bánh rồi đấy!

Suggested translation: 1b'. Hey! By my count, that's five cakes you've had already.

1b''. Hey! By my count, that's five cakes you already had.

In the sentence called 1b, again, the event mentioned in the sentence had happened before the time the father spoke. Specifically, the child ate five cakes. Similar to the sentence 1a, the occurrence of the word *đã* is optional if the sentence has the word *rồi* to indicate that the event has been done.

In the English-translated sentences called 1b' and 1b'', the present perfect or the simple past tense can be used for the fact that the child has already eaten five cakes. For British English speakers, in such a case, the present perfect tense is often used. That the child ate five cakes happened, but the specific time is unknown (unlike the time determined in the original sentence called 1a). Besides, it is possible that when the father speaks, the child is eating the fifth cake. "Usage of the present perfect creates a whole other slew of complications as its use may coincide with the simple past or refer to incomplete states or actions" (Gavell, 2018: 4). Meanwhile, "we may hear American English speakers using *already* with the past simple."⁴

2. Indicate that the aforesaid thing is going to be done, finished in a short time.

Example 2:

2. Anh đến đây đúng lúc thật đấy, tàu sắp chạy rồi.

Suggested translation: 2'. You got here in the nick of time, the train's just leaving.

2''. You got here in the nick of time, the train's going to leave.

In the sentence called 2, the presence of the modal verb⁵ *sắp* is required; otherwise, this sentence will show an event that happened in the past (*the train ran*). In Vietnamese, the combination of the word *sắp* preceding "the verb phrase of completion ("aspect")"⁶ *rồi* denotes the event that will be finished soon in the future.

For this reason, in the English-translated sentences called 2' and 2'', the near future tense will be preferred instead of the simple future tense. Moreover, there are many ways to denote the near-future tense in English. We can use the present continuous tense because according to

⁴ According to the Cambridge dictionary at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/vi/grammar/british-grammar/already>

⁵ This term was used by Cao (2005: 43).

Thomson & Martinet (1975: 53), "*planned future actions can be expressed by the present continuous tense with a time expression*" and "*the present continuous is mainly used for very definite arrangements in the near future*" (the sentence 2') or *be + going to* (the sentence 2'').

3. Indicate that what is about to be said will happen in the near future.

Example 3:

3a. Tốt hơn anh kể cho cô ta nghe vì *sớm muộn (gì)* rồi cô ta cũng biết mà.

Suggested translation: 3a'. You had better tell her because she'll find out sooner or later.

In the sentence called 3a, the word *rồi* accompanies the phrase *sớm muộn (gì)* to show that the event is likely to happen in the near future without a specific time like that in the sentences called 2a, 2b. Sometimes in Vietnamese, we can see the sentence called 3a in the case such as "*... vì rồi sớm muộn (gì) cô ta cũng biết mà*". Although the position of the word *rồi* can change, its meaning concerning indicating a high probability of the event does not change.

In the suggested English translation called 3a', the simple future tense used in the sentence is more suitable than the near future tense. As mentioned above, the event in this sentence only has a high probability of happening without absolute certainty, so it is impossible to use the near future tense to indicate that the event is about to happen at an almost determined time. However, to keep the meaning of the phrase *sớm muộn (gì)*, we need to use the idiom *sooner or later* in English.

3b. Nhìn thoáng qua thì tôi thấy thuế *rồi sẽ* tăng lên thôi.

Suggested translation: 3b'. I suppose at a glance, and taxes are going to go up.

In sentence 3b, the combination of the word *rồi* and the modal verb *sẽ* indicates the event is more likely to happen and complete soon without speaking. If the speaker is sure, they only need to use the word *sẽ* in the sentence called 3b. The occurrence of the word *rồi* is a way to confirm that the tax increase will happen soon, but the speaker does not know the time exactly. It also helps the speaker emphasize that the event is highly likely to happen after the glance. This conclusion can be made because of the speaker's experience and knowledge.

On the contrary to the sentence called 3a', in the suggested English translation called 3b', the near future tense in English needs to be used to translate the meaning from the original sentence called 3b. This is because, with the occurrence of the phrase *rồi sẽ* in the sentence called 3b, the speaker cannot determine the exact time, so we can use "*the going to form with or without a time expression*" (Thomson & Martinet, 1975: 53). Also, the phrase *rồi sẽ* still indicates a high probability that the event will happen soon as an inevitable consequence.

4. Indicate the passed time, *rồi* is often used as a word of conversational language after some words or phrases of time.

Example 4:

4. Họ báo chúng tôi biết là hàng (đã) được gửi đi tuần rồi thì phải.

Suggested translation:

4'. They informed us that the goods had been dispatched last week/a week ago.

4''. They inform us that the goods were dispatched last week/a week ago.

In the sentence called 4, the occurrence of the word *rồi* is required. Otherwise, the word *tuần* becomes indeterminate. However, the word *tuần* can be omitted if the speaker does not intend to emphasize the time when *hàng (đã) được gửi đi*. Besides, in the sentence called 4, the word *đã* is optional because the event in question happened in the past. In the suggested English translations called 4 and 4'', we can use the simple past or past perfect tense for the fact that *hàng đã được gửi đi*. However, which tense is used depends on the preceding part of the sentence (*họ thông báo chúng tôi*). If the simple past tense is used for this part, the past perfect needs to be used for the later one to show that the event in question happened before another event in the past (Mai & Nguyen, 2011: 9) (*hàng (đã) được gửi đi trước khi họ (đã) thông báo chúng tôi*). If the present simple tense is used for the former part, the past simple tense the latter only needs using for the latter one (*họ thông báo chúng tôi là rằng hàng (đã) được gửi đi*). Besides, the phrase *tuần rồi* in the sentence called 4 is equivalent to English as *last week* or *a week ago*.

5. Indicate an emphasis on what is considered definitely affirmable.

Example 5:

5a. Nhanh lên đi, tui mình muộn rồi đây!

Suggested translation: 5a'. Come on, shake a leg; we're late already!

5b. Phải rồi, chỉ có điều là ông đang đi ngược hướng.

Suggested translation: 5b'. Alright, / Yes, it is, only you're going in the opposite direction.

5c. Đèn (đã) sáng rồi.

Suggested translation: 5c'. The light is on.

In the sentences called 5a, 5b, and 5c, the word *rồi* is placed at the end of a clause or sentence is used to emphasize the reality of the given event.

In the sentence called 5a, the word *rồi* is used in Vietnamese to urge the listener to hurry up. In the English suggested translation called 5a', the simple present tense is used in this context with the occurrence of the word *already* "at the end of the sentence for more emphasis or to show greater surprise. This is especially common in informal speech." ⁶. The speaker puts an emphasis on the fact that the hearer should have been punctual.

⁶ According to Cambridge dictionary at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/vi/grammar/british-grammar/already>

In the sentence called 5b, in addition to the word *phải*, the word *rồi* can also follow some words like *được*, *đúng*, *ừ* to indicate agreement with the event in question. With the suggested translation called 5b', English often uses some words like *all right*, *okay*, *yes* to give equivalent meaning to phrases like *phải rồi*, *đúng rồi*, *được rồi*, *ừ rồi*.

In the sentence called 5c, the word *rồi* helps express the state of things or phenomena which is changing to reach a new state, "*end the beginning phase*" (Diep, 1996: 84).

5d. Theo hồ sơ ghi lại thì anh (đã) vào tù sáu lần rồi.

Suggested translation: 5d'. You've been in prison six times, according to our records.

The word *rồi*, in combination with the word *đã* (not required), helps both denote the past event and emphasize the event mentioned. Specifically, that *anh (đã) vào tù sáu lần* becomes more persuasive by the word *rồi* shortly after.

In the English suggested translation called 7d', with the repetition of the fact that *anh (đã) vào tù sáu lần*, so the present perfect tense is used which "while referring to past, includes a connection to the present" (Kolln & Funk, 2012: 74). Specifically, the man has been in prison in the past, and up to the present, this has happened six times.

6. Indicate a sequence of time at which what is about to be raised occurs shortly after what has just been mentioned. "With the word *rồi*, people are about to hear the next event." (Cao, 2003: 67).

Example 6:

6a. Chúng tôi manh ai nấy xem vở kịch rồi sau đó trao đổi ý kiến với nhau.

Tam dịch: 6a'. We had seen the play separately and then we compared notes afterwards.

6a''. We had seen the play separately before we compared notes afterwards.

6a'''. We see the play separately and then we'll compare notes afterwards.

6a'''''. We will see the play separately before we compare notes afterwards.

6b. Anh lái trước đi rồi tui mình (sẽ) đổi tài cho nhau.

6c. Anh đi qua hai dãy nhà rồi queo phải là (sẽ) đến.

Tam dịch: 6b'. You drive first and then we'll switch around.

6c'. You go two blocks, then turn right and you'll reach it.

In the above examples, the researcher sees that choosing which English tense to translate Vietnamese sentences does not depend on the word *rồi*. In these sentences, the word *rồi* only helps the events in the sentence follow a sequential order. Grammatically, the word *rồi* in these sentences resembles conjunction, which is out of the scope of the study.

7. Indicate a kind of sequential relationship wherein what has just been mentioned is likely to lead to what is about to be said.

Example 7:

7a. Anh phải xin phép cô ta *rồi* mới được làm.

Tam dịch: 7a'. You'll have to get her permission before you do that.

7b. Cố gắng học đi *rồi* anh sẽ đỗ.

Tam dịch: 7b'. Study hard and you will pass your examinations.

Similar to the meaning mentioned in section 3.2.6, the study does not analyze this meaning of the word *rồi*, because in this case, it acts as a conjunction in the sentence.

Table 1. Summarizing the meanings of the word “*rồi*” in Vietnamese.

Meanings (+ symbols marked in the study)	Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens	Notice
1. Indicate that the aforesaid thing which has been done belongs to the past time. (M1)	a. đã ... <i>rồi</i> b. đã từng ... <i>rồi</i> c. từng ... <i>rồi</i> d. vừa ... <i>rồi</i>	Used for the study of using English tenses for translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word <i>rồi</i> into English.
2. Indicate that the aforesaid thing is going to be done, finished in a short time. (M2)	a. sắp ... <i>rồi</i> b. gần (đến) ... <i>rồi</i>	
3. Indicate that what is about to be said will happen in the near future. (M3)	a. sớm muộn (gì) ... <i>rồi</i> b. <i>rồi sẽ</i> c. <i>rồi ... sẽ</i> ... d. <i>rồi đây</i> ... e. mấy/vài/một/hai/... + ngày/tuần/tháng/năm/... + nữa ... <i>rồi</i> f. mấy/vài/một/hai/... + ngày/tuần/tháng/năm/... vừa <i>rồi</i>	
4. Indicate the passed time, the word <i>rồi</i> is often used as a word of conversational language after some words or phrases of time. (M4)	[(mấy/bao/...) + lâu/tuần/tháng/năm/mùa/ngày] ... <i>rồi</i>	
5. Indicate an emphasis on what is considered definitely affirmable. (M5)	a. lại ... (nữa) <i>rồi</i> b. chắc (hẳn) ... <i>rồi</i>	
6. Indicate a sequence of time at which what is about to be raised occurs shortly after what has just been mentioned.		NOT used for the study of English tenses for translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word <i>rồi</i> into English.
7. Indicate a kind of sequential relationship wherein what has just been mentioned is likely to lead to what is about to be said.		NOT used for the study of English tenses for translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word <i>rồi</i> into English.

Research Questions

This study aims to answer the two questions below:

1. How are the influences that the word *rồi* puts on translators' selection for appropriate English tenses when translating the Vietnamese sentences containing it into English?
2. Is there notice that Vietnamese people learning English need to take when choosing English tenses when translating the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English?

Results/Findings and discussion

Table 2. The number of the word *rồi* found in the corpus of the study.

Works	The number of the word <i>rồi</i>	The number of the word <i>rồi</i> used for the study ⁷	Proportion
A	172	23	13.4%
B	257	124	48.2%
C	464	170	36.6%
D	235	91	38.7%

The simple present tense

Table 3. Some typical examples of the simple present tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	- Chỗ này đích rồi! (M5)	- Here it is!
	Tôi ngắt lời: - Thôi anh hiểu bụng chú rồi! (M5)	"Stop it!" I interrupted him. "I understand what you mean."
	Mới có cậu ếch ương căng mồm, phình bụng chỉ nói một câu bình thường cũng vang tai cả xung quanh rồi! (M5)	Just one bullfrog trying to put across his opinion is enough to make your ears ring.
B	- Cô cứ như thế đã đẹp rồi! (M5)	"You look gorgeous already!"
	Chín giờ sáng rồi! (M5)	"It's nine o'clock in the morning already!"
	- Cô gái đỏ mặt kêu lên - Em biết mình nhà quê rồi! (M5)	She cried out as her face turned red. "I already know I'm a hick!"
C	Chỉ mới mùa thu thôi đó mà đã mặc cả chục lớp áo rồi! (M5)	"It is only autumn now, but you are already wearing ten layers of clothes!"
	Em biết phương pháp học rồi! , vậy em phải tự bơi một mình chứ! (M5)	"You know the method of studying already, so you must swim by yourself!"
	- Fernando phì cười- Em bệnh nặng quá rồi! (M5)	Fernando burst out laughing. "You are seriously sick already!"
D	"Thế là công chúa chọn mày rồi! " (M5)	"So the Princess chooses you then."
	"Tao định làm gì thì mày cũng biết rồi! đó." (M5)	"What I'm gonna do, you know already."

⁷ The study only used the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* in the corpus with the meanings called M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5 in Table 1. These meanings have an influence on choosing the appropriate tenses in English for translating semantically equivalent Vietnamese sentences into English.

The researcher realizes that the simple present tense was used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* mainly with the meaning of the word *rồi* called M5 in Table 1. Of the 174 occurrences of the word *rồi* that are suitable for the objectives of the study and statistically collected from the corpus, most of them appear at the end of the original Vietnamese sentences (...*rồi*.) to indicate the emphasis on the fact considered affirmable. When translated into English, the word *already* is preferred to be used in an English sentence (...*already*...) or at the end of it (...*already*.) with 62 occurrences. It is appropriate to choose the simple present tense to produce a translation in these cases. Since the simple present tense in English is used to “expresses a general truth” (Seaton & Mew, 2007: 80), the fact that the speaker considers definitively affirmable. Therefore, the combination of *đã* and *rồi* (...*đã* ... *rồi*.) in the original Vietnamese sentences does not affect the use of the simple present tense when producing translation.

Table 4. The use frequency of the simple present tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the simple present tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (number of uses / proportion)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Vietnamese	English
A	8	34.7%	... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (8 / 100%)	
B	44	35.5%	... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (44 / 100%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... – (26 / 37.8%)
C	82	48.3%	... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (82 / 100%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... – (31 / 59.1%)
D	40	44%	... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (40 / 100%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... / ... <i>then</i> . – (5 / 12.5%)

The simple past tense

Table 5. Some typical examples of the simple past tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	Ròng rã mấy mùa rồi , không nhớ mà cũng không nghe được một tin tức gì về Trũi. (M4)	Many months passed. I was still without news of Mole-cricket.
	Anh ơi Từ khi anh em ta xa nhau. Chắc anh tưởng em chết rồi chứ còn đâu ngày nay. (M1)	"Brother, we have been separated for a long time. Perhaps you thought I was dead."
	- Chúng tôi gặp nhau tháng trước ở Hong Kong rồi – Mai vẫn còn kinh ngạc – Xin phép tôi phải đi! (M1)	"We already met each other last month in Hongkong."
	Đang giận nhất là em đang định của một thằng Tây trẻ, nhưng không ngờ thằng nay	Worse, I am so angry, mostly because she was paying attention to a young Western

B	lại quen con Mai trước đó rồi . (M1)	guy that I wanted to flirt with and to control later on, but I doubt that this guy already knew Mai before then.
	Các bậc phụ huynh bắt đầu hỏi “bé Mai” vào check – in vì sát giờ lắm rồi , hành lý lại nhiều. (M5)	All of her relatives started to hasten their "baby Mai" into the check-in area – for it was very nearly time already, and there was a lot of baggage.
C	Lúc anh đến khu học xá thì đã mười giờ tối rồi . (M1)	“When I went to your dormitory it was already ten o’clock at night.”
	- Nhưng anh đã biết trước rồi phải không? (M1)	“However, you knew before already right?”
	Tốt hơn hết là tắt phứt cho rồi , khỏi phải dài dòng giải thích lung tung. (M5)	“It was much better to definitely turn it off then, and escape having to lengthily explain in confusion.”
D	“Em đã hỏi chú Đàn rồi .” (M1)	“I asked him already.”
	“Mình chép xong rồi .” (M1)	“I already copied.”

The simple past tense is preferred to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* with its meaning called M1 in Table 1. Specifically, there are 76 times the translators used this tense to translate into English for the 76 corresponding Vietnamese sentences. In the Vietnamese sentences in these cases, the combination of the word *đã* with the word *rồi* (*...đã...rồi*) is counted up to 18/76 occurrences. According to Le (2020: 152), the structure of “(*đã*) + noun phrase of time + *rồi* is an adverb in Vietnamese sentences to denote a period passing before the time of speech”. Evidence suggests that to denote a past event, the word *rồi* can only appear alone (*...rồi*) or the time when the event happened is shown by the words or phrases of time (e.g. *mấy mùa rồi*, *trước đó rồi*, *tháng trước...rồi*) without the occurrence of the word *đã*. The occurrence of *đã* only helps to emphasize “*the relation of time to the process*” and “*the realism or unreality of actions, states, and properties in relation to time*” (Diep & Hoang, 1996: 125). Hence, in English, the translators use the simple past tense to translate the sentences containing the word *rồi* in these cases. The word *already* is still used, albeit insignificantly, with 22/76 occurrences in English sentences (*...already...*) or at the end of them (*...already*). In addition, the researcher also counts the insignificant number of occurrences of the word *rồi* with its meanings called M4 and M5 in Table 1. With the meaning called M4, the word *rồi* accompanied the words or phrases of the past time mentioned above. With the meaning called M5, the word *rồi* is to emphasize the event in question. This fact is akin to the use of the present perfect tense in English analyzed below.

Table 6. The use frequency of the simple past tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the simple past tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (<i>number of uses / proportion</i>)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Tiếng Việt	Number of uses
A	5	21.7%	<i>mấy mùa rồi</i> – (1 / 20%)	<i>many months passed</i> – (1 / 20%)
			<i>...đã...rồi...</i> – (1 / 20%)	
			<i>...rồi.</i> – (3 / 60%)	
B	17	13.71%	<i>...rồi. / ...rồi...</i> – (17 / 100%)	<i>...already. / ...already ...</i> (6 / 35.3%)
C	26	15.3%	<i>...đã...rồi.</i> – (5 / 19.2%)	<i>...already. / ...already ...</i> (9 / 34.6%)
			<i>...rồi. / ...rồi...</i> – (21 / 80.8%)	
D	28	30.7%	<i>...đã...rồi.</i> – (12 / 42.9%) <i>...rồi.</i> – (16 / 57.1%)	<i>...already. / ...already ...</i> – (7 / 25%)

The present perfect tense

Similar to the simple past tense, the present perfect tense is used to translate into English for the 90 Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi*. In these cases, the word *rồi* denotes the meaning called M1 in Table 1. Of these, although there are 25 times the words *đã* and *rồi* or *từng* and *rồi* combined (*...đã/từng...rồi.*), the researcher again realizes that the word *rồi* can appear alone. The question is why the translators chose the present perfect tense instead of the simple past one to translate these 90 Vietnamese sentences into English. According to Truong (2014: 127), “*The perfect*⁸ can be used to describe an event that started in the past and continues up to the period of utterance, or an event that has already happened in the past but its result relates to the present. In addition, it can also be used to describe events that have just happened shortly before the period of utterance. These meanings are categorized into four different types of the English perfect “*perfect of result, perfect of experience, perfect of persistent situation, and perfect of recent past*” (Comrie, 1976: 56-61).

⁸ The term *perfect* is reused by the author from *The English-Vietnamese/Vietnamese-English Dictionary of Terms of Contrastive Linguistics* (2005) by Cao Xuan Hao and Hoang Dung.

Table 7. Some typical examples of the present perfect tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	Trôi tiếp: - Anh mắng thì em cũng nói. Em tuyệt vọng rồi ,... (M5)	"I'm going to say it anymore," he said. "I haven't a bit of hope left..."
B	Mùa đông khủng khiếp đã đến rồi . (M5)	"The cold has set in."
	- Tôi đến rồi , đi họp – Mai thở dài – Giá lúc đó tôi quen anh! (M1)	"I have been there already. I went to a meeting," Mai said with a sigh. "I wish I could have known you already at that time!"
	"Các đồng nghiệp Marketing trong vùng châu Á đều sướng hơn mình, em dò hỏi rồi ." (M1)	"All the marketing co-workers in the Asian district are more satisfied than me, for I have already made inquiries about that."
C	Daniel tươi cười dù có phần bối rối – " Gần ba năm rồi từ ngày anh gặp em lần đầu ... (M4)"	Daniel said, having a dazzling smile, though he was somewhat confused. "It's been almost three years since I met you for the first time."
	"Anh bôi kem lên bàn chải cho em rồi đó!" (M1)	"I have already put toothpaste on your brush for you!"
	- Hai – Kim lạnh lùng trả lời – Đã nộp bài một môn rồi , còn môn "Nhân sự" đang làm, đầu tuần sau hết hạn. (M1)	"Two," Kim answered coldly. "I have already delivered one subject. I am currently doing the 'Human Affairs' subject. I will be finished by the first of next week."
	David bắt chuyện: - Em từng thăm bao nhiêu thành phố ở Anh rồi ? (M1)	David seized the opportunity to say, "How many English cities have you visited already?"
D	"Hắn Fernando tưởng tôi vẫn còn mê anh ta lắm - Vi Vi nhún vai cười - Cho tôi nhắn lại, hết từ lâu rồi ! (M4)	"Certainly Fernando thought I was still madly in love with him," Vi Vi said, shrugging her shoulders and smiling, "Send him my message. It has been over already for a long time!"
	Tôi đá vào chân nó, giọng hiểu biết: - Tao nghĩ thầy biết lâu rồi . (M4)	I kick my leg into his leg, as if knowing, "I think that he has known for a long time already."
D	Trái với mẹ tôi, ba tôi đứng ở đầu giường, quắc mắt nhìn thẳng Tường, giận dữ: - Mà mà không nằm bẹp thế này, tao đã đập thêm cho mày mấy gậy rồi ! (M5)	Opposite my mom, my dad stands at the foot of the bed, an angry scowl on his face when seeing Tường. - "You can't be immobilized just from this, how many times have I beaten you with the cane already!"

We see this clearly in the following sentences.

- "*Gần ba năm rồi từ ngày anh gặp em lần đầu ...*" - *perfect of persistent situation*: from the past to the time of utterance is nearly three years, the word *rồi* helps to show that the meeting was in the past and helps to emphasize the reality of the three-year period;
- "*Em từng thăm bao nhiêu thành phố ở Anh rồi?*" - *perfect of experience*: the word *rồi* implies that the matter that David is asking, empirically, to know how many places

where Kim has visited in England since she started his studies at Oxford University happened before David asked;

- “*Anh mắng thì em cũng nói. Em tuyệt vọng rồi.*” - *perfect of result*: De True expressed his desperation as a negative outcome of his and De Men's dire situation before the time of this statement. The word *rồi* is used to emphasize this fact which has just happened.

Therefore, choosing the present perfect tense to translate the Vietnamese sentences in these cases into English is correct. There are 49 occurrences of the word *already* in these English sentences.

Table 8. The use frequency of the present perfect tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the present perfect tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (number of uses / proportion)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Tiếng Việt	Number of uses
A	2	8.7%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . – (1 / 50%) ... <i>rồi</i> . – (1 / 50%)	
B	36	29.03%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . – (11 / 30.5%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... (22 / 61.1%)
			... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (25 / 69.5%)	
C	38	22.4%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> / ... <i>từng</i> ... <i>rồi</i> – (8 / 21.1%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... (27 / 71.1%)
			... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>lâu rồi</i> . – (30 / 78.9%)	
D	14	15.4%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> – (5 / 35.7%)	
			... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>lâu rồi</i> . – (9 / 64.3%)	

The past perfect tense

Table 9. Some typical examples of the past perfect tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	Một bên thì bảo mày vu oan cho ông. (Vì anh tôi đã giữ sạch ngay bãi phân chim trên lưng rồi). (M1)	...while Tailorbird was mad at what he thought was a false accusation. (As a matter of fact, my brother had already cleaned the droppings off himself.)
	Nhưng có điều đau đớn hơn cho tôi là Trũi đã bị Châu Châu Voi bắt làm tù binh rồi . (M1)	..., and for me personally there was a piece of grievous news: Mole-cricket had been taken prisoner.
B	Sophie đứng chờ Mai trước cửa phòng vệ sinh như sợ cô tự tử mất rồi . (M1)	Sophie was standing in front of the toilet waiting for Mai as though she feared that Mai had already committed suicide and was lost.
	“...Anh bỏ em rồi .” (M1)	“...You had abandoned me already.”
C	Kim cười nắc nẻ nhận ra hồi nào đến giờ mình đã “trả thù” rồi mà không	... Kim said, bursting into laughter and realizing that when the time came, she had already 'paid revenge', but

	biết - Vậy nhé, tối này em chờ anh ở khu học xá. (M1)	didn't realize it. "So right, this evening I will wait for you at my dormitory."
	Đã lâu rồi anh không thèm tìm cách liên lạc với Kim qua email hay điện thoại gì nữa. (M4)	For a long time already, he hadn't wanted to look for a way to communicate with Kim by email or telephone any longer.
	Thật ra hai người đã chờ đợi nhau quá lâu rồi , giờ vắng nhau thêm vài tháng nữa cũng không sao nếu điều này thực sự cần thiết. (M4)	The two of them had really waited for each other for a long time already, and being away from each other for several more months wouldn't be so bad if it was actually necessary.
D	Trước đó, con Nhi đã được ba nó dắt vào rạp rồi . (M1)	She had already been once to see the show.

The past perfect tense in English is used 29 times in the researcher's research corpus. This tense belongs to the group of the English perfect "in correlation with the reference time in the past" (Truong, 2014: 128). In the 29 original Vietnamese sentences, the occurrences of the word *rồi* (...*rồi*./...*rồi*...) with 20/29 times or its combination with the word *đã/từng* (...*đã/từng*...*rồi*.) with 09/29 times refer to the situation time in the past, corresponding to its meanings called M1 and M4 in Table 1. The difference with the simple past tense and the present perfect tense is that the event in question happened before another event in the past (Mai & Nguyen, 2011: 9). Therefore, depending on the context of the original Vietnamese sentence containing the word *rồi*, the translators choose the past perfect tense for such cases. In English sentences translated from these sentences, the word *already* continues to be used with 10 occurrences.

Table 10. The use frequency of the past perfect tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the past perfect tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (number of uses / proportion)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Tiếng Việt	Number of uses
A	6	26.1%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . – (2 / 33.3%) ... <i>rồi</i> . – (4 / 66%)	... <i>already</i> ... – (1 / 16.7%)
B	6	4.82%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . – (2 / 33.3%)	... <i>already</i> ./... <i>already</i> ... – (3 / 50%)
			... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (4 / 66.6%)	
C	15	8.9%	... <i>đã</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>từng</i> ... <i>rồi</i> . – (5 / 33.3%)	... <i>already</i> . / ... <i>already</i> ... – (6 / 40%)
			... <i>rồi</i> . / ... <i>rồi</i> ... – (10 / 66.7%)	
D	2	2.2%	... <i>rồi</i> . – (2 / 100%)	

The simple future tense

Table 11. Some typical examples of the simple future tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	- Nhưng trước khi nhắm mắt, tôi khuyên anh: ở đời mà có thói hung hăng bậy bạ, có óc mà không biết nghĩ, sớm muộn rồi cũng mang vạ vào mình đấy. (M3)	"... But before leaving this world, I would like to give you some advice: Don't be such a foolish braggart. Your aggression and arrogance will bring bad luck to you someday."
B	Cuối cùng khi Mai sắp quăng luôn chiếc laptop, Louis mở cửa thoát thân, trước khi kịp sập cửa lại anh tru tréo: " Rồi cô sẽ hối hận! (M3)	Finally, when Mai started to throw her laptop, Louis opened the door to flee, but before slamming the door shut he yelled, "You will regret this later!..."
	" Rồi anh sẽ thấy."	"... You will see them later."
	- Bà Christine khuyên chân thành – Rồi cháu sẽ còn gặp nhiều chuyện không như ý. (M3)	Misses Christine sincerely advised. "You will face many experiences later that are not like the way you think."
	Chắc vài tuần nữa cô sang Paris rồi . (M3)	"...for she will go to Paris in just a couple of weeks."
C	Kim bật cười, làm ra vẻ vô tư: " Rồi David sẽ cho bác một nàng dâu dễ thương!" (M3)	Kim burst out laughing, and appearing unbiased said, "Then David will give you a lovable daughter-in-law!"
D	- Mẹ con sắp được thả rồi . (M2)	"Your mom will soon be released."
	- Con sắp ngồi dậy được rồi . (M2)	"I'll be able to sit up soon."

The simple future tense is used to translate the 31 Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* with its meanings called M2 or M3 in Table 1. The number of sentences containing the word *rồi* with the meaning called M3 is more dominant than the one called M2. Specifically, with the meaning called M3, the word *rồi* usually needs to accompany the word *sẽ* (...*rồi*...*sẽ*... / ...*rồi* *sẽ*...) with 15 occurrences to denote the situation time in the future. With the meaning called M2, the word *rồi* usually needs the presence of the word *sắp* (...*sắp*...*rồi*...), (...*sắp*...*rồi*...) with 06 occurrences to denote that the event will be finished in the blink of an eye. In the sentences translated into English, these two meanings are expressed more clearly with the occurrence of the words or phrases such as ...*later* (09 times), *then will*... (01 time), ...*soon*... / ...*soon*... (04 times), *then*... (02 times).

Thus, to use the simple future tense for translating the original Vietnamese sentence containing the word *rồi*, the translators need the presence of other words such as *sẽ*, *sắp*, ... They accompany the word *rồi* to denote its meanings called M2 or M3 in Table 1. However, the occurrence of the word *rồi* in these cases is not required. The translators can still translate the original Vietnamese sentence into English with the simple future tense without taking the word *rồi* into account. This is common when in the Vietnamese sentence there is "(an) adjunct(s) of time in the future" (To, 2013: 10) as in the sentence "*Chắc vài tuần nữa cô sang Paris rồi*". Besides, according to To (2022: 143), "the Vietnamese language generally expresses future meaning by a lexical means: (i) either a single modal verb like *sẽ*, *định*, *tính*, or *sắp*; (ii)

or a combination of two or more modal verbs like *định sẽ, tính sẽ, dự tính sẽ, có thể sẽ, sẽ có thể, or sẽ ... được*”. Therefore, the number of English sentences using the future simple tense translated from the original Vietnamese sentences in the researcher’s corpus is not significant. However, the occurrence of the word *rồi* helps to emphasize the event in question for its possibility of happening in the future.

Table 12. The use frequency of the simple future tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the simple future tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (number of uses / proportion)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Tiếng Việt	Number of uses
A	1	4.4%	<i>sớm muộn rồi</i> – (1 / 100%)	
B	20	16.13%	<i>...rồi...sẽ... / ...rồi sẽ... -</i> (12 / 60%)	<i>...later. -</i> (9 / 45%)
			<i>...sắp...rồi... -</i> (2 / 10%)	
C	7	4.2%	<i>...rồi...sẽ... / ...rồi sẽ... -</i> (3 / 42.3%)	<i>...then will... -</i> (1 / 14.3%)
			<i>...sắp...rồi... -</i> (1 / 14.3%)	<i>...soon... -</i> (1 / 14.3%)
			<i>...rồi. / ...rồi... -</i> (3 / 42.3%)	<i>...then... -</i> (2 / 28.6%) <i>...already -</i> (1 / 14.3%)
D	3	3.3%	<i>...sắp...rồi. -</i> (3 / 100%)	<i>...soon. / ...soon... -</i> (3 / 100%)

The near future tense

Similar to the simple future tense, the near future tense is used in a limited way by the translators when translating the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* with its meaning called M2 in Table 1. Specifically, there are only 08 times the near future tense was used and 6/8 of those have a combination of the word *sắp* and the word *rồi* (*...sắp...rồi*). The influence of the word *rồi* on the translator's choice of the near future tense to translate the original Vietnamese sentences is almost non-existent. However, as mentioned above, the occurrence of the word *rồi* helps to emphasize the possibility of an event happening in the near future.

Table 13. Some typical examples of the near future tense used to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English in the corpus.

Works	Vietnamese sentences	English translation
A	Tôi nói lớn: - Ấy chớ! cứu anh thì đã đành, nhưng đừng vào bây giờ. Tường nhà tù chắc chắn lắm, mà sắp đến buổi lão chim Trá đi kiếm ăn về rồi . (M2)	"Wait!" I hastily cried out. "Don't enter yet. It's about time for the Kingfisher to return home."
	Lần nào trở về, nghe tôi hỏi, mắt nó cũng lấp lánh hy vọng: - Chắc mẹ mình sắp được thả rồi . (M2)	Each time she comes back, her eyes are twinkling with some hope when I ask her about it. "My mom's gonna be free soon,..."
B	Thôi sắp phải lên máy bay rồi , em stop nhe. (M2)	Well, we are going to board the plane shortly, so I'll stop here.
C	Fernando có vẻ rất mệt mỏi và buồn bã: - Anh đến để tạm biệt em – Fernando gượng cười – Ngày mai anh đi rồi . (M2)	Fernando, appearing very tired and depressed, said, "I came to say so long to you." Fernando forced a smile, "Tomorrow I am going already".
	"Thật ra Việt Nam đang là môi trường đầu tư hấp dẫn- Fernando kéo Kim nằm xuống gối đầu lên đùi mình- Thị trường cổ phiếu sắp nóng lên rồi , em không chịu đọc báo kinh tế gì hết!" (M2)	"Vietnam is really attractive for the investment field." Fernando said, while pulling Kim to lay her head down on the pillow on his lap. "The market shares are going to get hot there soon, so you wouldn't want to read a newspaper about the economics at all!"
D	"Nhà mình sắp giàu rồi !" (M2)	"Mom, we're going to be rich!"

When translating these sentences into English, the translators use a variety of ways below to express this meaning.

- "*be about + infinitive*" to claim that an event is "*going to very soon*" or "*just going to*" (Swan, 1980: 3).
- "*be going to...*" to describe an event "*with or without a time expression*" (Thomson & Martinet, 1975: 53) or even to make predictions about an event in the near future. "*The predictive meaning, especially the prediction based on present causes, can also be expressed by be going to...*" (To, 2013: 10). "*Nhà mình sắp giàu rồi!*" is a point in case.
- "*be V_ing*" is also used to "*talk about things you have planned to do, or things that are going to happen in the future.*" (Seaton & Mew, 2007: 91). In such a case, however, "*if we want to use it with a future connotation, it is almost imperative that a sign of future time is present*" (To, 2013: 9) "*Ngày mai anh đi rồi.*" is a point in case.

Table 14. The use frequency of the near future tense & words/phrases accompanying the word *rồi* to help us know when events happen.

Works	The use frequency of the near future tense in English		Words / phrases in Vietnamese can accompany the word <i>rồi</i> to help us know when an event happens – the frequency of use (number of uses / proportion)	
	Number of uses	Proportion	Tiếng Việt	Number of uses
A	1	4.4%	...sắp...rồi. – (1 / 100%)	<i>be + about to</i> – (1 / 100%)
B	1	0.81%	...sắp...rồi. – (1 / 100%)	<i>be + going to</i> – (1 / 100%)
C	2	1.2%	...sắp...rồi. – (1 / 50%)	<i>be + going to</i> – (1 / 50%)
			...rồi. – (1 / 50%)	<i>be + V_{ing}</i> – (1 / 50%)
D	4	4.4%	...sắp...rồi. – (3 / 75%)	<i>be + going to / be + about to</i> – (3 / 75%)
			...đã...rồi. – (1 / 25%)	<i>be + about to</i> – (1 / 25%)

Table 15. The summary of the possibility of translating Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English with the appropriate English tenses.

Works	The use frequency of English tenses					
	Simple present	Simple past	Present perfect	Past perfect	Simple future	Near future
A	34.7%	21.7%	8.7%	26.1%	4.4%	4.4%
B	35.5%	13.71%	29.03%	4.82%	16.13%	0.81%
C	48.3%	15.3%	22.4%	8.9%	4.2%	1.2%
D	44%	30.7%	15.4%	2.2%	3.3%	4.4%

Discussion

The study addresses the word *rồi* to clarify its influence on translators' selection on choosing the English tenses for translating Vietnamese sentences containing it into English. Based on the meanings of the word *rồi* in Vietnamese and the occurrence of some other words or phrases involved, the translators should take them into account before deciding what English tense is appropriate to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing them into English semantically equivalently. Specifically, the researcher has findings which aim at clarifying this matter and helping Vietnamese learners studying English find it easy to translate in similar cases.

- **The simple present tense** is usually used to translate Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English if the word *rồi* occurring in them denotes the meaning of emphasizing the reality of the event mentioned. In this case, the word *rồi* often appears at the end of the original Vietnamese sentences (...*rồi*.) to indicate the emphasis on the fact considered affirmable. When translated into English, the word *already* is preferred to be

used in an English sentence (...*already*...) or at the end of it (...*already*). The combination of *đã* and *rồi* (...*đã* ... *rồi*.) in the original Vietnamese sentences does not affect the use of the simple present tense when producing translation.

- **The simple past tense, present perfect, and past perfect tense** are preferred when the word *rồi* implies that the event mentioned in the sentence happened in the past. The combination of the words *đã/từng* with the word *rồi* (...*đã/từng*...*rồi*.) is quite popular in the Vietnamese sentences in these cases. The word *rồi* can even appear alone. Consequently, the word *already* is still used, albeit insignificantly to translate them into English. The main difference between the use of **the present perfect** and **the past perfect tense** is that while the former requires the word *rồi* to indicate the connection of the event in question with a result at present, the latter is used when that event happened before another time or action in the past.
- Evidence suggests that the word *rồi* exerts no effects on choosing **the simple future or near future tense** when translators translate Vietnamese sentences containing it into English. This is because in the Vietnamese sentence there is “(an) adjunct(s) of time in the future” (To, 2013: 10). The word *rồi* usually needs to accompany the word *sẽ* (...*rồi*...*sẽ*... / ...*rồi* *sẽ*... / ...*sắp*...*rồi*... / ...*sắp*...*rồi*.) to denote the situation time in the future. The translators need the presence of the other words in question (*sẽ*, *sắp*, ...) to use the simple future or near future tense in English. However, the occurrence of the word *rồi* helps to emphasize the event in question for its possibility of happening in the future.

Researching words/phrases that affect translators’ selection on English tenses when translating Vietnamese sentences into English has become a popular and interesting topic for years as it is considered a challenge for language learners when there are differences of grammar between their mother tongue, such as Vietnamese, and foreign language, English as a case in point. “Translators and scholars are on the way to pursue better and more complete methods as well as criteria systems for translation” (Tran, 2022: 1). Thereby resulting in the presence of various research addressing this matter. However, the reality has not applied clearly and completely to the word *rồi* in consideration of its influences on translators’ selection on appropriate English tenses to translate the Vietnamese sentences containing it into English.

Truong (2015) used the literary work named ‘The Old Man and the Sea’ by Ernest Hemingway and its Vietnamese translation by Le Huy Bac to have statistics on the use frequency of the meaning of perfect. The author proved that when translating English sentences with this meaning into Vietnamese, the translator used the combination of words, including *đã*, *rồi*, and *chưa*. However, Truong (2015) only clarified the influence of the word *rồi* in conveying the meaning of perfect in Vietnamese when Vietnamese translators translate English sentences into Vietnamese. Also, Truong (2015) focused on the word *rồi* in combination with other words/phrases, which put the emphasis on syntactic features in Vietnamese. Trinh (2014) mentioned the role of the word *rồi* in translating utterances with conversed conventional implicature. The reason is that *rồi* “shows very clearly the orderly nature of action” (Trinh, 2014:26), so it is necessary to apply the translations with conserved Conventional Implicature

from English into Vietnamese. Either way, Trinh (2014) did not have further analysis of the word *rồi*. Both Truong (2015) and Trinh (2014) used the different method from that of this study when they considered English as the source language and Vietnamese as the target language for their studies.

Compared to these previous studies, this study has several differences. Initially, the researcher of this study tried to clarify the influences of the word *rồi* on translators' selection on six English tenses when translating Vietnamese sentences into English, not just the perfect tenses. Next, this study used Vietnamese as the source language with the four literary works written by Vietnamese authors and English as the target language with the translations of the works in question. Finally, the two previous studies, to a certain extent, supported this research's findings as no conflict appeared.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the occurrence of the word *rồi* exerts a significant influence on translators' selection on choosing the appropriate English tenses for translating Vietnamese sentences containing it into English. These sentences are usually translated into English with the simple present tense if the word *rồi* occurring in them denotes the meaning of emphasizing the reality of the event mentioned. Meanwhile, the simple past, present perfect, and past perfect tense are preferred when the word *rồi* implies that the event mentioned in the sentence happened in the past. The main difference between the use of the present perfect and the past perfect tense is that while the former requires the word *rồi* to indicate the connection of the event in question with a result at present, the latter is used when that event happened before another time or action in the past. However, that using the simple future and near future tense is not dependent upon the occurrence of the word *rồi* because this word does need the combination with other words or phrases to denote the meaning of future. Therefore, understanding the influence of the word *rồi* in Vietnamese in different contexts helps Vietnamese people learning English know how to choose the appropriate English tenses to have the semantically equivalent translation of Vietnamese sentences containing the word *rồi* into English.

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Biodata

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