

Conclusion

5.1 Findings

In the study of noun modifiers which are derived from relative clauses in English and in Thai, the author has found that the differences between noun modifiers in both languages as detected through the analysis and comparison within the transformational framework can account for most of the mistakes found among the 500 examination papers of Chulalongkorn University students. The problems that the students have in using noun modifiers in English as reflected in the mistakes may be divided into six categories.

1. The students fail to apply the T-rules generating relative clauses in English as they transfer the application of a different set of T-rules which generate relative clauses in their native language to English. As a result, they produce sentences containing a relative clause with two subjects or objects having the same referent:

(22) *He get little money from salary which the money is not enough to pay for my family.

(95) *They love to do everything that it will please you.

(21) *I saw a dog in a movie which my mother took me to see that movie.

(96) *I saw the flame from the forest near the mountain which the road crossed it.

2. They fail to select appropriate relative pronouns in English due to confusion in the forms and the particular restrictions of each relative pronoun. The reason for this is that in Thai, there is no such restriction. This type of problem is shown in the use of inappropriate relative pronouns in English:

2.1 incorrect relative pronouns instead of who:

2.1.1 whom

(43) *My mother had a friend whom was a dentist.

2.1.2 whose

(44) *My brother whose climbed after me grasped my hand.

2.1.3 which

(39) *Emily decided to sell her car to George Smith which was a well-known artist.

2.2 which instead of whom

(45) *The person which I admire most, is Lincoln.

2.3 incorrect relative pronouns instead of whose

2.3.1 whose + possessive adjective

(46) *John Brown whose his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.2 who + possessive adjective

(47) *John Brown who his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.3 whom

(48) *John Brown whom office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.4 whom + possessive adjective

- (49) *John Brown whom his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.5 that + possessive adjective

- (50) *John Brown that his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.6 which

- (51) *John Brown which office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.7 which + possessive adjective

- (52) *John Brown which his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.8 where

- (53) *John Brown where office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.3.9 where + possessive adjective

- (54) *John Brown where his office is on the fortieth floor of a skyscraper went to see a book publisher.

2.4 incorrect relative pronouns instead of which2.4.1 whose

- (55) *She felt in her handbag for the piece of paper whose father had written down all the details of the journey on.

2.4.2 whose + possessive adjective

- (56) *She felt in her handbag for the piece of paper whose her father had written down all the details of the journey.

2.4.3 what

(57) *We do not see the program what we want.

2.4.4 where

(58) *My friends and I are going on excursion to Padburi
where is one of my friends hometown.

2.4.5 when

(42) *It gives us the news when happens recently.

2.5 incorrect relative pronouns instead of where2.5.1 which

(59) *The place which people like to go to live is klong.

2.5.2 that

(60) *The evidence happened near a bank of a river that my
house situated.

3. They have problems with the construction preposition + relative clause in English as in Thai, the preposition + relative clause never occur. Thus, the students omit the preposition in such a construction. For example:

(72) *It is the mass media _____, which we can get information and fun.

4. They transfer the free application of the relative pronoun deletion transformation in Thai to the relative pronoun, subject of the relative clause in English as reflected in ungrammatical sentences containing two finite verbs, for example:

(71) *We will see the main chedi contains a relic of the Buddha.

5. They apply the relative pronoun deletion transformation generating verbal phrases in Thai in order to give verbal phrases in English and fail to mark verbal phrases in English with appropriate inflectional endings, since those in Thai are never marked. This can account for the use of incorrect verb forms beginning participial phrases in English:

(90) *A television is a thing uses for enjoyment.

6. They neglect the obligatory application of the adjectival VP shift transformation generating the surface structure of an adjective modifying a noun in English as they do not apply this T-rule in Thai. As a result, they make mistakes concerning incorrect positioning of adjectives in English. For example:

(93) *There is a program which interviews an expert professional.

5.2 Recommendation

The followings are suggestions for further research:

1. It is possible that the analysis of mistakes within recent transformational framework in this study reveals only some aspects of the problems that Thai students have in using noun modifiers in English. Thus, it will be beneficial to re-examine and analyse those mistakes by using other newly developed theories, for example the theory in psycholinguistics or generative semantics which deals more closely with deep structures. These approaches will probably present finer divergences in the language.

2. The validity of the findings in this work is recommended to be proved through carefully prepared tests with Thai students of different levels, i.e. the intermediate and advanced levels.

3. Instructors of English in secondary schools may find it useful to investigate the problems Thai students have in the ordering of noun modifiers in English with respect to the relative clause, the modifying phrase and the adjective.



ศูนย์วิทยทรัพยากร
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย