

The Role of Proverbs in Promoting Cultural Competence and Language Skills in English Language Teaching: A Case Study of Vietnamese Proverbs



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ABSTRACT: This study explores the role of proverbs in promoting cultural competence and language skills among English language learners, using Vietnamese proverbs as a case study. Proverbs, as traditional linguistic expressions, carry deep cultural significance and offer rich educational value. By analyzing their metaphorical language, tonal structure, and rhythmic qualities, this study demonstrates how proverbs can be effectively integrated into language teaching to enhance both linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness. The research highlights the dual function of proverbs in fostering cross-cultural understanding and improving vocabulary, syntax, and pronunciation skills. Through discussions on the modern usage of proverbs in education, communication, and business contexts, the study argues that proverbs serve as valuable tools in developing holistic language learners. The findings suggest that incorporating proverbs into English language teaching not only supports linguistic development but also deepens students' appreciation for cultural diversity, making them more adept at navigating cross-cultural interactions in a globalized world.

KEYWORDS: Proverbs, English language teaching, cultural competence, linguistic skills, Vietnamese proverbs, language acquisition.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition and Overview

A proverb is a short, traditional saying or phrase that imparts wisdom, advice, or general truths about life or human behavior. These sayings are often passed down through generations and reflect the cultural values and experiences of a particular society. As defined by Wolfgang Mieder (2004) in his book "Proverbs: A Handbook", proverbs are concise and memorable expressions that encapsulate pieces of wisdom, advice, or general truths about human behavior or life. They are deeply rooted in oral traditions, making them integral to cultural continuity and identity. From a cultural perspective, proverbs serve as essential cultural expressions that convey the essence of a society's experiences, beliefs, and customs (Jeff, 2008). In their article "Proverbs: The Shapers of Cultural Identity", Shahrzad Daneshvar and Saeed Ketabi discuss how proverbs are integral to maintaining cultural continuity, ensuring that cultural values and knowledge are passed down orally through generations.

1.2. An overview of the cultural and linguistic significance of proverbs in Vietnamese society

Proverbs hold significant cultural and linguistic importance in Vietnamese society, reflecting the values, wisdom, and cultural heritage of the Vietnamese people. These concise expressions, deeply rooted in the Vietnamese language, have been passed down through generations and continue to play a vital role in communication, education, and the preservation of traditional knowledge. Vietnamese proverbs serve as repositories of cultural and moral values upheld for centuries. They encapsulate the wisdom of past generations and reinforce cultural continuity by educating the youth and instilling moral and ethical values. From a linguistic perspective, Vietnamese proverbs use vivid imagery and metaphorical language to convey complex ideas concisely. As a tonal language, the specific tones used in Vietnamese proverbs add layers of meaning, while their rhythmic and rhyming qualities enhance memorability and oral transmission. Proverbs continue to shape the values and principles of the Vietnamese people, making them indispensable cultural and linguistic tools.

1.3. Cultural Significance of Proverbs in Vietnamese Society

The importance of proverbs in the social life of the Vietnamese and the culture created by the Vietnamese is very rich. Proverbs help in the conservation of the cultural components such as heritage and values as well as practices of the Vietnamese society. As

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such, they represent the knowledge of previous societies and still, it remains relevant in the efforts made by the people as they seek to accomplish their day-to-day activities, as well as, relate with each other. One, for example, the Vietnamese proverb assists in conserving the cultural customs and practices to the present generation. It captures the essence of the Vietnamese and the values that shaped their ancestors' way of living life. Proverbs provide Ngoc Hung Le and Thanh Van Dao, who studied "Vietnamese Cultural Values Reflected in Proverbs" Authors, proverbs a loose definition 'as a means of storing and preserving a wealth of knowledge' that is built over decades of community activity. The second point is that proverbs are and must be used for education in the context of Vietnamese society. They are considered as rewarding measures in the inculcation of values, especially moral and ethical concepts to the younger population and adequate strategies on ethical conduct are provided.

In *The Role of Proverbs in Vietnamese Education* by Nguyen Van Loi (2016), it is mentioned that "Vietnamese proverbs are said to be one of the most significant traditional modes of instilling knowledge among Vietnamese children." In addition, the use of proverbs among Vietnamese children is essential in teaching values and appropriate ethics. Also, there are a number of proverbs in which Vietnamese proverbs stress social cohesion and the welfare of the society. Proverbs bring about unity, respect for all parties, and that what one does should help the society. In *The Meanings of Vietnamese Proverbs: Harmony and Balance in Vietnamese Culture* by Nguyen Thuy Quynh (2021), the author informs how proverbs enshrine, 'cooperation, empathy and collectiveness,' and enhances the stance of the nation as unified and whole. It is worth noting that respect towards elders and traditions, the aspects of Vietnamese culture expressed through proverbs, is an indispensable culture. Mainly, proverbs are a form of communication employed by elders where moral experiences are passed onto the young members of the family and the community at large. As a consequence, such values are instilled in them and respect to the elderly and learning from them is emphasized. She observes this adherence to the theory of respect for culture in *The Role of Proverbs in the Intergenerational Transmission of Cultural Values in Vietnam* by Nguyen Thi Tuyet (2018). The contribution of proverbs in the natives is profoundly rooted since these are parts of their culture.

These encompass the beliefs, through the aspirations, values, and even customs specific to Vietnam. These also help in maintaining the features of Vietnamese cultures that makes it stand out as well as the pride and feelings of belonging. The author Nguyen Thuy Anh (2019) elaborates this cultural caste system in his article *Exploring Vietnamese Proverbs in Intercultural Communication: The Case of Gratitude*. In the society of south Vietnam, proverbs are not just the speech of people but regarded as their culture. These serve even today as a repository of knowledge and ethical principles.

2. LINGUISTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PROVERBS IN VIETNAMESE SOCIETY

The cultural relevance of proverbs in Vietnamese society has strong relations with the aspect of language since most proverbs usually exhibit the linguistic diversity, imagery, or poetry present in the Vietnamese language. Proverbs serve as effective, succinct and easy to remember scenes and sayings steeped in the culture of the people, as well as accentuate some aspects of the Vietnamese language. Further contributing to the above-mentioned feature of proverbs in the culture of Vietnam, and using the same sources: considering the aspect of metaphorical language, it may be argued that proverbs in Vietnamese are exceptional after all due to the richness in metaphor they possess, usually relating images and metaphors from ordinary life, the environment or customs. This imagery has been described as being employed in Vietnamese proverbs and serves to enhance their meanings. As Nho Nguyen Van (2018) in *The Use of Metaphor in Vietnamese Proverbs* posited, proverbs and in particular, those of Vietnamese' contain a lot of metaphors which are in themselves illustrations of vivid thinking that cut across space and time.

With regard to language typology, it classifies Vietnamese as a tonal language by stating that proverbs include the use of tones where specific tones are adopted to make sense of the proverbs. There are also strains of proverbs highlighting the tonal nature of the Vietnamese language. For example, proverbs may be stated with varying explanations and use of tones to improve the interpretation attributed to the particular proverb. Such phenomenon is remarked upon *Tones in Acrostic Phan Thuyet* by Le Thanh Nga (2018), which examines the contribution of tonality in evaluation of proverbs prosodically.

Also, there are usual characteristics of rhythmic and pitching predominantly found in Vietnamese proverbs which makes them appealing. This memorable aspect of proverbs is aided by the presence of this rhyming and rhythmic nature of the proverbs to make oral recitals easier. Use of rhyme and rhythm is very common in proverbs in order to create pleasant sound patterns that make them attractive. Such aspect is addressed in *The Anthropology of Sound in Vietnamese Proverbs* by Pham Van Chinh (2018) where sound structure and proverbs are dealt with.

Proverbs are aphorisms that appear in several domains and can therefore be looked at as a wide-ranging discourse. It should not be limited to conveying some message; in addition, they may also participate in narrative, explanation or instruction, moderation and urge. The sociolinguistic perspective on the use of proverbs in the Vietnamese society as communicative tools is the focus of the book *The Pragmatic Functions of Vietnamese Proverbs* by Nguyen Duc Thai (2018).

They are most commonly used in interactions to send a particular message, to elicit or respond to a particular emotion, or provide some information. They can also be used as manipulative devices in making a point, highlighting certain societal messages, or

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providing help. The role of proverbs used as a means of communication is discussed in Proverbs as Discourse Markers in Vietnamese by Dinh Van Ngan (2021).

In the case of Vietnam, proverbs go beyond their popular usage as cultural manifestations, but rather, linguistic treasures that symbolize the beauty and depth of the Vietnamese language. They unite elegance of the language as well as cultural ideals, which make up the characteristics of communication in Vietnam and its People's values and cultural orientation.

Proverbs are a significant aspect of culture in Vietnam. This is as they are well rooted in the culture of Vietnam and play different purposes in the maintenance of culture, provision of knowledge, and showcasing ideologies of the culture. There are some factors that highlight the cultural significance of proverbs in Vietnam, as enumerated below:

Proverbs hold significant cultural importance in Vietnamese society. They are deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of Vietnam and serve various roles in preserving traditions, conveying wisdom, and reflecting the values of the culture. Here are some key aspects of the cultural significance of proverbs in Vietnamese society:

Transmission of Cultural Values: Proverbs act as a vehicle for passing down cultural norms, values, and wisdom from one generation to the next. As Nguyen (2018) notes, they encapsulate the collective wisdom of the Vietnamese people and offer guidance on navigating life's challenges.

Reflection of Cultural Beliefs: Proverbs reflect the beliefs, customs, and traditions of Vietnamese society. According to Pham (2019), they often draw upon historical and cultural references, providing insights into the shared experiences and beliefs of the community.

Social Bonding: Proverbs foster a sense of community and shared cultural identity. Tran (2020) explains that they provide common ground for communication, allowing people to connect and relate to one another through a shared understanding of proverbs.

Moral and Ethical Guidance: Proverbs play a vital role in offering moral and ethical guidance in various aspects of life, including family, work, and relationships. As discussed by Le and Vu (2017), they promote virtuous behavior, honesty, and respect for others.

Preservation of Oral Tradition: Proverbs are an essential part of the oral tradition in Vietnamese culture. Nguyen and Do (2016) emphasize that they are passed down through storytelling, folklore, and oral history, ensuring that cultural knowledge is preserved for future generations.

Celebration of Cultural Festivals: Proverbs often feature prominently in cultural festivals, celebrations, and rituals. Bui (2018) highlights that they are recited, sung, or displayed as a way to reinforce the cultural significance of these events.

Respect for Elders: The use of proverbs is a sign of respect for the wisdom and experience of older generations. According to Vu (2021), younger individuals often turn to proverbs as a way to acknowledge and seek guidance from their elders.

Conflict Resolution: Proverbs are sometimes employed in conflict resolution, offering a non-confrontational way to address issues and express grievances while upholding cultural norms of politeness and indirect communication (Hoang, 2019).

Expressing Gratitude: Proverbs are used to express gratitude, goodwill, and well-wishing. Bui and Tran (2020) explain that they are commonly employed in social interactions, such as during celebrations, greetings, and farewells.

Cultural Identity: Proverbs contribute to the formation and reinforcement of cultural identity. According to Le (2017), they are a distinctive feature of Vietnamese culture, and understanding and using proverbs correctly is seen as a reflection of cultural knowledge and competence.

Teaching and Education: Proverbs are used as teaching tools for imparting cultural knowledge and values in educational settings. Pham (2018) suggests that they help students learn about the culture and develop a sense of cultural identity.

Artistic Expression: Proverbs often find their way into various forms of art, including literature, poetry, music, and visual arts. Nguyen (2019) noted that they add depth and authenticity to artistic expressions, enriching the cultural and artistic landscape.

In summary, proverbs in Vietnamese society serve as cultural treasures that transmit values, connect generations, and reflect the identity of the Vietnamese people. They are an integral part of the cultural heritage, providing both guidance for daily life and a means of preserving and celebrating Vietnamese traditions.

3. LINGUISTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PROVERBS IN VIETNAMESE SOCIETY

In the context of Vietnamese society, the meaning of proverbs in language is inseparable from the characteristics, the systems, and functions of the Vietnamese language. The proverbs encompassing the perspective of the peoples as well constitute the forefront dimensions of the Vietnamese language with regard to the imagery, tones, and the practice of oral culture.

Metaphorical Language: Among all the accompanying constituents of Vietnamese proverbs, one of the most pronounced is the presence of tropes, and in particular the metaphorical nature of proverbs. Not only do these proverbs function linguistically, but even more, they create images which are applicable in order to convey concepts. Nguyen (2018) notes, not in terms of language but ways of thinking, metaphors in a Vietnamese proverb do help in compression and the relativity of abstract thoughts. Employing common pictures such as animals, nature, and family relations enables the audience to learn sophisticated ethical guidelines or life counsel through simple and clear pictures.

Tonal Aspect: One linguistic layer on proverbs is attributed to the tonal characteristics that Vietnamese possesses. Since Vietnamese is a tonal language; the tone of a certain word can change its meaning wholly, making some words sound entirely different. Such

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tonal complexity is also obvious in the proverbs where the use of distinct tones purposefully add value to the meaning and the context of the proverb. According to Le (2019), the tonal contours are selected carefully in the Vietnamese proverbs in order to draw particular interpretations or subtle changes in the interpretation, making situational proverbs not simply stores of wisdom but of intricate words and phrases as well. Rhythm and Rhyme: There is a remarkable number of Vietnamese proverbs which are rhythmic and rhyming in nature making them easy to remember in oral usage. As Nguyen and Pham (2020) assert, it is appropriate to assume that as Vietnamese proverbs are rhymed, the rhyme schemes serve to help these proverbs remain in the oral culture. The rhythm and rhyme render proverbs memorable and can be recited, allowing their transmission through the generations in cultures that are meaningfully oral concerning the transmission of culture. Such phonological features are, however, not only useful in imbuing meaning to proverbs but also adding aesthetic value to proverbs.

Linguistic Versatility: Vietnamese proverbs have been found to be multifunctional in their application in different communicative acts. They find resonance in storytelling, advising, convincing, and even in contexts such as education and dispute resolution. As pointed out by Tran (2021), there is a wide range of pragmatic uses of proverbs in the Vietnamese context as these go beyond the conventional usage of proverbs as wise sayings. Proverbial expressions are most often used to counter requests, perform face, or encourage socially acceptable behavior in the speaker-listener context.

Preservation of Language and Culture: Further, proverbs contribute in a significant way to the maintenance of the Vietnamese language as well as the Vietnamese culture. In Vietnam, proverbs uphold the richness of the language including syntax, vocabulary, and phonology, as well as cultural values. Pham (2017) states that proverbs pole up cultural and language-based resources where the language used covers the period and economic conditions. This serves to protect the development of the Tonal features of the older varieties of Vietnamese, despite the modernisation of the language.

To sum up, it can be said that proverbs possess linguistic significance in Vietnamese society in the above aspects and even more in others. They serve as useful means of transmission of culture and knowledge standing for the unique images of the Vietnamese language with its inherent metaphorical texture, tones and phonetic characteristics. As cultural tools, proverbs safeguard Vietnamese language and culture for the posterity.

4. EXAMPLES OF VIETNAMESE PROVERBS

One such tool is the use of proverbs; every Vietnamese embraces with pride as it is replete with language and culture. Every famous proverb holds practical and useful advice for the Vietnamese people. These homilies, as these sayings are also known, are taken from the daily life of the people and encapsulate fuller concepts towards patience, appreciation, togetherness, and honesty. Understanding such issues with the inclusion of exemplars clarifies the aspect of proverbs over language decorations to being history and cultural codes ideologically directed at the future, towards the young. Such are the proverbs depicting the different facets of Vietnamese society and social thinking. Here are some examples of Vietnamese proverbs along with their cultural and linguistic significance, supported by in-text citations and references.

“Có công mài sắt, có ngày nên kim” (If you work at sharpening iron, eventually it will become a needle): This proverb emphasizes perseverance and patience in overcoming difficulties. It highlights the value of continuous effort, suggesting that with persistence; even the most challenging tasks can be completed. As Le (2020) notes, this proverb is often used to encourage students and young people to stay determined in their studies or work, reflecting the deep-rooted Vietnamese belief in hard work and endurance.

“Ăn quả nhớ kẻ trồng cây” (When eating fruit, remember who planted the tree): This proverb teaches gratitude and respect for those who contribute to one’s well-being. It reflects the cultural value of remembering and honoring ancestors, elders, or individuals who have made sacrifices for others. According to Pham (2021), the proverb is often invoked during celebrations or family gatherings, reminding people of their obligations to their forebears and the community.

“Một cây làm chẳng nên non, ba cây chụm lại nên hòn núi cao” (One tree alone cannot make a mountain, but three trees together can): This proverb emphasizes the importance of teamwork and cooperation. It signifies the strength that comes from unity, illustrating how individuals can achieve greater success by working together. Nguyen (2021) argues that this proverb is frequently used in social and educational contexts to promote the values of collaboration and mutual support in Vietnamese society.

“Đói cho sạch, rách cho thơm” (Better to be clean while hungry and fragrant while torn): This proverb reflects the Vietnamese cultural value of integrity and dignity, even in difficult circumstances. It teaches that maintaining moral principles is more important than material wealth. As Tran (2019) notes, this proverb is a reminder of the importance of ethical behavior and personal honor in Vietnamese culture, often used in conversations about maintaining self-respect.

“Nước chảy đá mòn” (Water wears away stone): This proverb highlights the concept of persistence and the power of gradual effort. It suggests that, over time, consistent action can lead to significant change, even against seemingly immovable obstacles. Bui (2020) describes this proverb as reflective of the Vietnamese appreciation for patience and long-term perseverance, commonly applied in discussions about personal growth and societal change.

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5. MODERN USAGE OF PROVERBS IN VIETNAMESE SOCIETY

The modern usage of proverbs in Vietnamese society demonstrates their enduring relevance, even as the country continues to experience rapid economic and social changes. While the cultural context has evolved, Vietnamese proverbs remain a vital part of daily communication, education, and cultural identity, adapting to contemporary issues while retaining their traditional significance.

5.1. Communication and Daily Life

In everyday conversations, Vietnamese proverbs are often used to emphasize points, provide advice, or offer moral lessons. They are commonly invoked in both informal settings, such as family discussions, and formal settings, like business meetings or political speeches, to add weight and authority to statements. According to Le and Pham (2020), even in the digital age, proverbs serve as valuable rhetorical devices in interpersonal communication, allowing speakers to express ideas succinctly while tapping into the shared cultural knowledge of the listeners.

With the increasing use of social media platforms, proverbs have found new life in the digital space. Vietnamese netizens frequently use proverbs in online posts, memes, and comments to articulate opinions or offer commentary on social, political, or personal matters. The brevity and metaphorical nature of proverbs make them highly adaptable to digital communication, where concise yet impactful statements are valued.

5.2. Education and Moral Instruction

In contemporary Vietnamese education, proverbs continue to play an important role in teaching moral and ethical values. Teachers often use proverbs to illustrate lessons in ethics, respect, and diligence. Pham (2021) notes that proverbs are commonly included in literature and moral education curricula, where they are used to encourage students to reflect on traditional values and how they apply to modern life. The proverbs' relevance in shaping students' character development highlights their ongoing educational value. Proverbs also remain a powerful tool for parents and elders to pass down cultural wisdom to younger generations. Despite generational changes and the rise of modern technology, proverbs continue to be a means of imparting traditional values such as hard work, respect for elders, and community cooperation.

5.3. Cultural Identity and Social Cohesion

Vietnamese proverbs are a key element in the preservation of cultural identity. Even as globalization introduces new influences into the country, proverbs offer a connection to the past, fostering a sense of national pride and continuity. In urban and rural areas alike, proverbs are still invoked to reflect on cultural values and shared histories, often during festivals, community gatherings, and important family occasions. Tran (2019) emphasizes that proverbs are essential in maintaining a collective sense of cultural identity, reminding individuals of their connection to Vietnamese heritage.

In addition, proverbs play a role in promoting social cohesion, as they are used to address issues of interpersonal conflict, community harmony, and social responsibilities. For example, in moments of disagreement or when advising patience, individuals might refer to proverbs to provide a non-confrontational yet persuasive argument. In this way, proverbs help to preserve the cultural norm of indirect communication and mutual respect.

5.4. Application in Business and Leadership

Proverbs have also found their place in the modern business environment in Vietnam. Leaders and managers frequently use proverbs to convey guidance, offer motivation, or address challenges within the workplace. Bui (2020) observes that Vietnamese business leaders often rely on traditional proverbs to communicate values such as teamwork, perseverance, and integrity, which are important in both small family-owned businesses and larger corporate enterprises. By integrating proverbs into business communication, leaders are able to draw upon cultural wisdom to inspire and unify their teams.

5.5. Adaptation to Contemporary Issues

Proverbs are not static, and their interpretations have adapted to contemporary issues such as environmental sustainability, gender equality, and social justice. Nguyen (2021) points out that modern reinterpretations of proverbs allow them to remain relevant in discussions about current societal challenges. For example, proverbs that traditionally highlighted roles within the family or community are now being revisited in light of changing gender roles and expectations.

Similarly, environmental movements in Vietnam have embraced proverbs that stress balance, harmony with nature, and long-term thinking. These reinterpretations demonstrate the flexibility of proverbs and their ability to address new challenges while still maintaining their traditional roots.

In modern Vietnamese society, proverbs remain a vibrant and influential part of communication, education, and cultural identity. Their continued use across various contexts whether in daily conversations, education, business, or social media demonstrates their adaptability to contemporary life. Proverbs not only serve as a link to the past but also provide insights into how traditional wisdom can be applied to navigate the challenges of modern society.

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6. CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF PROVERBS IN VIETNAMESE SOCIETY

Proverbs remain deeply relevant in modern Vietnamese society, serving as both cultural touchstones and practical tools in communication, education, and social interactions. Despite rapid modernization, these traditional expressions continue to resonate, adapting to contemporary settings while preserving their core meanings.

6.1. Social Interaction and Social Networking Vice versa

Phrases with meaning as propositional base can serve as the argument weight, advice, or moral lessons, rather commonplace in ordinary hold people's conversation. As such, it is possible to find them in use both in non-official and official contexts. This ability, together with others, Nguyen (2020) elaborates on, means that proverbs are still very much in use when it comes to talking to one another, especially in the countryside, where modern era do not come easy.

Especially on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok which require creativity in communication in the era of new media, proverbs have found new purposes. They can be untangled very quickly and stick in the minds of people to serve their purpose in new media. As Le (2021) states, Vietnamese users of the Internet tend to use proverbs in the posts or memes intending to express some thoughts concerning the social, political, or personal issues, which makes sense in the dynamic and constantly evolving Internet environment.

6.2. Considering the Importance of Education in the Upbringing of the Character

In Vietnam, the use of proverbs is still encouraged during lessons in school with special focus on the moral and ethical education of the child. In order to convey to students' key cultural dispositions like respect for elder people, diligence and willingness to take part in community's activities, schools will intersperse the students' lessons with proverbs. As viewed in Pham (2021) proverbs have aided in teaching various virtues including perseverance displaying that its' educators have not lost the importance of character development in their teaching. Proverbs have been serving as lessons and revolve between the traditional and the contemporary society.

In addition, proverbs are still used by parents to reinforce the life principles among the children, passed down since their grandparents' times. Nowadays, when the confluence of borderless civilizations is prominent and western ideas often merge with Vietnamese customs, proverbs are appreciated by parents and elders of the young generation, as they help to convey their views and ideas to children in a less abstract and more cultural manner (Bui, 2020).

6.3. Business and Leadership

Within the business environment, Vietnamese authorities often refer to proverbs in order to convince their employees and emphasize the key aspects of business. In speeches, training sessions or meetings, these proverbs about patience, collaboration and integrity are often referred to. In this case, as Tran (2021) states, business leaders deploy proverbs in a context they are used to in a bid to portray the ideas in the proverbs to their teams. This situation is blamed on most family-run enterprises where business and cultures exist hand in hand.

Also, proverbs are culturally appropriate ways of stating position during proofreading or reconciliation, where tend to be used in an indirect way. According to Pham (2021), in modern workplaces, criticism and direction can be delivered through the use of proverbs in a more acceptable and non-political manner where the issues will be addressed without cold wars and flaming.

6.4. Cultural Identity and Cohesion within Society

Another function that proverbs have is that of empowerment and preservation of cultural identity, especially with the ongoing cultural invasion towards Vietnam's globalization. Exclusion of these proverbs may lead to loss of memories about how certain historical events, values and beliefs were embraced which in turn creates a continuum among Vietnamese. Le (2020) maintains his position that these proverbs in some ways ensure the maintenance of a Vietnamese way of life, even as some social aspects are shaped by globalization. For example, on traditional days and during get-togethers, people tend to use logical ideas in the form of proverbs or allude to their basic that is very clear.

Hymn Ought also Advocate for the maintaining of Peace and Unity among their people. When there are misunderstanding situation, this is an efficient way of giving suggestion or criticism without offending, which is appropriate in Vietnam where people don't use direct expression. Bui (2021) looks at this particular function of the proverbs and whether it works to manage relationships between conflicting parties and still able to address the underlying concerns in a culturally appropriate manner to both parties- bringing about mutual resolution without any aggressive approach.

7. DISCUSSION

This study attempted to find out the significance of using proverbs in enhancing the sociolinguistic and linguistic competence of students of English considering the case of Vietnamese proverbs. The findings from the analysis highlight the effectiveness of proverbs having a dual aspect of functions as linguistic and cultural instruments making them useful in the field of language education.

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Proverbial cultural competence offers learners an interesting perspective in that proverbs expose them to the culture's worldview, values, and other social norms. In Vietnam, when learning proverbs, students are not merely acquiring vocabulary or grammatical forms, but they are also learning good and bad behaviours that are encoded in the proverbs. Learning proverbs such as “*Có công mài sắt, có ngày nên kim*” (If there is sufficient effort in shaping a piece of metal it will be made into a needle) exposes learners to dwell more on some of the important cultural traits such as commitment and hard work that feature a lot in the Vietnamese perspective (Le, 2020). Such exposure helps students improve their abilities to engage in cross-cultural communication, which has become a necessary ability in the modern day (Pham, 2021). This also suggests that the use of proverbs during language classes affords students the chances of learning the languages as well as the cultures behind the languages which increases the students' motivation towards the target language (Nguyen, 2020).

Linguistically, teaching resources enhance the language skill acquisition process through the use of proverbs. The use of Vietnamese proverbs with metaphors, rhythm and tonal languages enable a great basis for vocabulary acquisition, understanding of syntax and earning of pronunciation (Nguyen, 2018). For instance, such proverbs as “*Đói cho sạch, rách cho thơm*” (Better to be clean while hungry and fragrant while torn) explain the metaphorical, phonological aspects of the language where sounds explore meanings and vice versa (Tran, 2019). The focus on pronunciation and differences in tones as non-verbal messages within spoken language and the functions and the genres within a culture such as those in Vietnamese proverbs is also advantageous as it facilitates the comprehension of the Vietnamese language (Le, 2019).

In addition, as stress drills, proverbs are so individual that they do not burden students with heavy and dull most often irritating routines but enhance all kinds of corrections. Use figurative per bras like constrictions to suggest new ideas or insights make it simple to reinforce vocabulary speaks idioms and figurative meanings of English and Vietnamese languages proficiency (Mieder, 2004). In this regard, Mieder (2004) is correct since proverbs are thoroughly effective in terms of language as Mieder emphasizes their use as salient improvement rather than decoration.

Within communicative language teaching approaches, a key feature of proverbs is that they are used by speakers to rely on the interaction. Learners are in a position to use proverbs to either gives opinions, make recommendations or assess the circumstances in narratives, debates or discussions (Bui, 2020). This makes speaking and listening more useful as well as encouraging the students' ability to think as they seek to understand the different proverbs (Tran, 2021).

It can be concluded from the results of this study that proverbs serve a more complex purpose which does involve teaching the grammatical forms but language cultural competence as well, which is especially relevant in the current context of language teaching. With regard to the teaching of English in such a way that makes proverbs possible, teachers manage to provide students with both language and worldview (Nguyen, 2021).

8. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, it can be stated that the use of proverbs assists in improving the aspects of language and also culture among the learners of English. The paper demonstrates the applicability of Vietnamese proverbs as both a linguistic and cultural medium of instruction with a two-way advantage; they facilitate language learning as well as cultural education. Learners are able to enhance their volumetric accretions and general linguistic abilities as well as their cultural literacy of that particular language through the metaphorical, tonal, and rhythmic aspects of proverbs.

It is obvious what conclusions can be derived from this study with regard to teaching languages. It is evident that when proverbs are incorporated in the language system, the students' interest and competence towards the language is improved, not to forget adequate learning which is interesting and is contextualized to appreciate the language's cultures. In this age of globalisation, the need to understand and appreciate the languages of different cultures is imperative for language learners. In this context, proverbs can contribute importantly to this competency because of their strong cultural specifics.

Proposed future studies might include investigating the integration of proverbs in the teaching of English as a Foreign Language using other culturally-different proverbs and understanding the enduring effects of proverbs on learners' language skills and cultural proficiency. There is also room for empirical studies that can explore how proverbs can promote cognitive and teaching processes within a classroom setting. This paper as demonstrated affirms the relevance of the integration of culture and language in the teaching of foreign languages and gives a workable solution of developing balanced language learners in today's world.

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