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CHARACTERISTICS OF VIETNAMESE LEXIS OF VIETNAMESE AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRANTS

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Abstract

The Vietnamese of Australian communities (VAC) still maintains many obsolete expressions originating from and related to the Southern Vietnamese political institutions of the pre-1975 Southern government. In addition, VAC has adopted English loanwords (ELs) through close contact with Australian English and uses them extensively to fill gaps in vocabulary. English loanwords have not only been borrowed in their original forms but were also nativized through the mechanism of loanwords and loan translation. Moreover, hybridised expressions have been coined by Vietnamese Australian émigrés through the compounding of one English or Vietnamese item with a Vietnamese or English item through loan blending.

Keywords: Vietnamese in Australia, lexis, language contact

ISO 639-3 codes: vie

1. Introduction

Vietnamese nationals have formed large immigrant communities abroad since the mid-1970s. According to the State Committee of Vietnamese in foreign countries, there are currently about 4 million Vietnamese nationals who are living, working and studying in over 100 countries and territories. The majority of Vietnamese immigrants, 80 percent, live in developed countries (Nguyen 2012). In addition, Vietnamese nationals have settled in English-speaking countries and other countries and territories, thus making Vietnamese a significant migrant language abroad and bringing Vietnamese into contact with English and other host community languages. This is a phenomenon which has not been seen before in the history of Vietnamese language and in cultural exchanges between Vietnam and the rest of the world (Vuong 1998:24).

Vietnamese spoken in Australian communities (VAC) has also been one of the fastest-growing language communities in Australia and one of the most widely spoken languages other than English spoken at home (Dao 2012). Over a period of more than 30 years, VAC has developed and adapted to its environment and has been in close contact with Australian English. In addition, Vietnamese people who live in Australia try to maintain not only their traditions, customs and culture, but also the language that they brought with them. Language is a way for them to maintain their cultural heritage (Dao 2003:62, Nguyen 2002, Dao 2012:76). As a result, VAC now has characteristics distinct from contemporary Vietnamese as it exists in Vietnam.

This study investigates the different characteristics of the lexis of the Vietnamese language in Australia compared to those of contemporary Vietnamese language in Vietnam. Research into the Vietnamese language in Australia can contribute not only to language contact knowledge in general, but also to the study of language contact and migrant languages in Australia, and in particular the study of the Vietnamese dialects outside of Vietnam.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Previous studies on the Vietnamese language of Vietnamese residents in Australia and abroad

Literature on the study of the Vietnamese language of Vietnamese nationals abroad in contact with English and other adopted languages is limited in scope. In Australia, research on the change experienced by the VAC in contact with Australia English is scarce. Researchers in this field include Pittam and Ingram (1990), Ho-Dac (2003), and Thai (2005a and 2005b). A published doctoral thesis ‘Vietnamese – English Bilingualism: Patterns of Code-switching’ carried out by Ho-Dac (2003) is particularly relevant. That research was based on spoken language data including recorded natural speech and interviews with bilingual Vietnamese-English people. Ho-Dac showed that the phenomenon of code-switching occurs in all types of word classes in Vietnamese speech and personal pronouns. In addition, Pittam and Ingram (1990) studied Vietnamese refugees acquiring proficiency with Australian-English vowels. In summary, studies on the change undergone by VAC in contact with Australian English in terms of phonetics, syntax and lexis is valuable but not extensive.

In Vietnam, literature on the Vietnamese language in Australia and other countries abroad is also quite sparse. There have been two studies carried out in this field (Vo 2002; Dao 2003). These studies show that outdated words and old country names are still in use in Australian-published Vietnamese-language newspapers (hereafter ‘AVNs’). In addition, these studies show that the Vietnamese used in AVNs also borrow English expressions in order to fill gaps in vocabulary such as new ideas, concepts, phenomena and scientific terminology for which VAC has no equivalents of its own. In terms of syntax, these publications also show that the passive structure is used in AVNs more often than in Vietnamese-published Vietnamese-language newspapers (hereafter ‘VVs’). However, as mentioned above, these studies are only preliminary surveys of the phenomena of obsolete usages, English loanwords, and passive structures in AVNs.

2.2 The Perpetuation of Archaisms

The factors which contribute to the perpetuation of archaisms in the languages of ethnic minorities and immigrant groups are identified by Clyne (2003). Archaisms constitute one type of resistance to language shift. The groups referred to by Clyne did not have contact with their home countries, so they were not aware of contemporary lexical items:

Archaisms are perpetuated either because the contemporary lexical item in the country of origin is not known or because it is unacceptable due to its political connotations. This applied to Hungarian, Croatian, Polish, Latvia and other refugees of the late 1940s and early 1950s. (Clyne 2003;111).

This can also help to explain the persistence of archaisms in the Vietnamese language of Vietnamese communities in Australia. Because the Vietnamese communities overseas were not in contact with the contemporary Vietnamese language in Vietnam for about 20 years (from 1975 to 1995), the Vietnamese language in Australia has tended to preserve many archaisms, although Vietnamese abroad now has a much more extensive contact with contemporary Vietnamese language in Vietnam through the Internet, the media, and tourism.

Clyne (1972) presented examples of obsolete words which are still used by the first generation of German emigrants resident in Australia. Obsolete words such as *eisschrank* (‘ice-chest’ = refrigerator) and *wasserleitung* (‘water-pipe’ = tap) are still used by German emigrants resident in Australia but are no longer used in contemporary German and have been replaced by *Kühlschrank* and *Wasserhahn* respectively in modern German.

2.3 Issues in language contact

Languages come into contact in many ways. Some are the result of exploration, colonization, trading, and immigration. The most common outcome of language contact is the borrowing of words from the other language (Thomason and Kaufman 1988; Thomason 2001). However, borrowing of other structural features of language also occurs, including phonology, morphology and syntax (Haugen 1953; Weinreich 1953; Thomason and Kaufman 1988; Thomason 2001; and Clyne 2003).

Haugen (1950) categorized lexical borrowing into three categories: (i) loanwords; (ii) loan blends and (iii) loanshifts (p.214-215). However, Stanlaw (2004) showed that ‘linguistics typically classified lexical

borrowings in terms of four processes: ‘loanwords’, ‘loan blends’, ‘loanshifts’ and ‘loan translations’ (or ‘calques’) (see Haugen 1972, Lehiste 1988). In addition, according to Romaine (1995), ‘loanwords and loan blends are particularly common cases of so-called ‘immigrant bilingualism’ (p.56).

Code-switching is considered a close counterpart of borrowing. In Poplack’s (1980) definition, code-switching ‘is the alternation of two languages within a single discourse, sentence or constituent’ (Poplack 1980;583). Similarly, Ho-Dac (2003) held that code-switching is ‘the alternate use of two languages within or across a sentence boundary (based on Weinreich 1953, among others)’ (Ho-Dac 2003;10).

The distinction between borrowing and codeswitching is not always clearly maintained. It is even suggested that, from the point of view of synchronization, there is no need to distinguish between borrowing and codeswitching (Myers-Scotton 1992, 2002). In addition, according to Clyne (2003), ‘there is a great deal of disagreement in the recent literature as to what determines clearcut instances of both ‘borrowing’ and ‘code-switching’ (Clyne 2003;71). He goes on to emphasize that although recently ‘there has developed a consensus among some linguists (e.g. Myers-Scotton 1992; Treffers-Daller 1994; Backus 1996), there is no clear dividing line between ‘code-switching’ and ‘borrowing’, and that they form a ‘continuum’ (Clyne 2003;71). However, some researchers maintain the distinction. One of the distinctions is based on the degree of the speaker’s competence. ‘Borrowing’ may occur in the speech of those with only monolingual competence, while ‘code-switching’ implies some degree of competence in two languages (Pfaff 1979, pp.295-296).

In terms of the overall profile of Vietnamese in Australia, this study therefore deliberately concentrates on lexical borrowings in terms of loanwords, loan translations and loan blends.

2.3.1 Loanwords

A loanword is defined as a lexical item which has been borrowed from another language, a word which originally was not part of the vocabulary of the recipient language but was adopted from some other language and made part of the borrowing language’s vocabulary’ (Campbell 1998;63). Stanlaw (2004;34) argued that ‘a loanword is a term where both the form and the meaning are borrowed, as in such items as *geisha*, *blitzkrieg*, or *perestroika*’.

2.3.2 Loan translation

Loan translation, also known as calquing, is a type of borrowing in which ‘each morpheme or word is translated into the equivalent morpheme or word in another language’ (Richards, Platt and Weber, 1985;33). A well known example of a loan translation is the English word *superman*, ultimately derived from Nietzsche’s ‘Übermensch’ (Stanlaw, op. cit.). In the Vietnamese language in Vietnam, loan translation is a typical method of Vietnamisation of foreign borrowed expressions (Nguyen 2007). However, when English loanwords are transferred into Vietnamese by loan translation, the order of the elements in the expressions must change in order to conform to Vietnamese grammar. For example, in English, an adjective which modifies a head noun is placed before the head noun. In contrast, in Vietnamese in Vietnam, this order is reversed, and adjectives are post-modifiers.

(1)	English noun phrase	Vietnamese noun phrase
	adjective modifier head noun	head noun adjective modifier
	<i>stamp duty</i>	<i>thuế con niêm</i>
	‘stamp duty’	tax stamp
		‘stamp duty’

2.3.3 Loan blends

‘Loan blend’ is defined by Colin and Sylvia (1998;165): ‘a loan blend occurs when the meaning of the word is borrowed but only part of the form, e.g. Dutch ‘software *huis*’ from software house’. Similarly, Stanlaw (2004;34) claimed that ‘a loan blend is an item where the meaning is borrowed but part of the form retains a characteristic of the donor language’. A typical example of a loan blend is *beatnik* (Stanlaw 2004), which is combined from an English element *beat* with a Slavic diminutive suffix *-nik*. In addition, Phongsak (1991;38) showed that loan blends are a type of borrowing in which ‘one part of the word is native and the other is borrowed’. Phongsak (1991;228) also shows a phenomenon when a Thai verb combines with an

English loan verb to create verb loan blends: the Thai verb *ruút* ‘to fasten’ combines with the English noun ‘zipper’ to create a mixed verb, *ruút-zip* ‘to fasten a zipper’. In Vietnamese in Vietnam, Nguyen (2007) investigated Vietnamese expressions coined by compounding English elements with Vietnamese elements as examples of loan blends: *mix nhạc* combines English *mix* with the Vietnamese element *nhạc* ‘music’.

2.3.4 Coining of new Vietnamese words

In Vietnamese, Nguyen (2007:401) shows that one method to coin a Vietnamese word is by compounding an English element with a Vietnamese element. This manner of combining can have the potential to produce many mixed expressions in Vietnamese language.

(2)	English item + Vietnamese item	→	new Vietnamese expression
	<i>mix</i> + <i>nhạc</i>	→	<i>mix nhạc</i>
			mix music
			‘mix music’
	<i>post</i> + <i>bài</i>	→	<i>post bài</i>
			post text/lesson
			‘post text/lesson’

3. Methods of Collection and Analysis of the Written Language Data

The written language materials for this study included monolingual Vietnamese newspapers published by AVNs and VVNs. The lexical data were collected from these newspapers, and analysis of the lexical data was based on comparative and descriptive approaches.

3.1 The AVNs sources

The AVNs were chosen because they offer an opportunity to investigate the persistence of pre-1975 Vietnamese in Australia and because they show the results of 30 years of close contact between Australian English and Vietnamese.

A key AVN source includes the *Việt Luận* (literally ‘the Vietnamese Herald’). This newspaper was launched in 1983 and is published two days a week. Editions of the newspaper circulating between 2007 and 2010 were chosen to collect data. The important feature of the selection of the *Việt Luận* newspaper was that this newspaper is among the most widely circulated daily and weekly newspapers in the Australian Vietnamese community and is one of the first Vietnamese newspapers to have maintained continuous publication and distribution around Australia for about 30 years.

Two other AVNs sources were chosen, and their years and days of circulation were randomly selected between 2007 to 2010 in order to diversify and enrich the data sources and to capture the full range of the data. These newspapers are *Chiêu Dương Newspaper* (lit. ‘the Sunrise Newspaper’), one of the first Vietnamese newspapers published since 1981, and *Nhân Quyền Newspaper* (lit. ‘Human Rights’), a weekly newspaper. To this group, we added the more regionally based *SS tuần báo* (lit. ‘the Southern Sky Weekly’) and *Người Việt* newspaper (lit. ‘Vietnamese People’s Newspaper’).

3.2 The VVNs sources

The VVNs circulating between 2007 and 2010 were chosen to be the sources of contemporary Vietnamese language data and would be used for comparison with Vietnamese in AVNs. A key VVN source includes *Tuổi Trẻ Newspaper* (lit. ‘The Youth’) launched in 1975. The *Tuổi Trẻ* newspaper was selected because it is one of the leading daily newspapers in Vietnam. Its electronic version is *Tuoi Tre Online* (<http://www.tuoitre.com.vn>). Two other websites of electronic newspapers were selected in order to provide further contemporary Vietnamese language data for reference. They include (b). *Thanh Niên Newspaper* ‘the Young people’, and (c). *Tin nhanh Viet Nam* electronic newspaper ‘Express News of Vietnam’. These newspapers and electronic newspapers are among the top ten newspapers in Vietnam.

3.3 Method of collection and analysis of the written language data

The initial method of data collection was to submit the AVNs to a close critical reading to highlight (a) obsolete terms which are no longer used in newspapers, magazines published in Vietnam and no longer used in media in Vietnam nowadays and (b) borrowed English lexical items which are used in Vietnamese language contexts in the AVNs. All borrowed English lexical items appearing in Vietnamese contexts were highlighted.

The researcher used the conventional method of record cards for each lexical item (both obsolete and borrowed English lexical item) and its source. Each individual lexical item was counted once. We did not count the number of appearances of the lexical item in AVNs (as in Nguyen and Pham 2007) since the goal was to discover the types and semantic domains of the borrowed lexical items and expressions. The data was entered into a spreadsheet and analysed for numbers and percentages of lexical items according to part of speech. Secondly, the lexical items in the corpus were grouped into semantic fields based on their meaning. However, each broad category comprises various sub-categories. The data were then used for qualitative analysis, and was used for counting the number and percentages of tokens in each semantic field. Thirdly, the obsolete terms used in AVNs were examined in terms of parts of speech, orthography and phonology, lexicon, semantic fields, and semantic shift and maintenance. In addition, the ELs borrowed in AVNs were studied in terms of parts of speech, and semantic fields, types of borrowings, which include loanwords, loan translations and loan blends.

The appropriate descriptive statistical analyses of the results were undertaken based on comparison with counterpart items used in Vietnamese newspapers published in Vietnam.

4. Results

A total of 3,577 tokens were collected from AVNs. The corpus comprised obsolete terms (334 items, 9.3%) and English loanwords (3,243 items, 90.7%) which included loanwords (1,935 items, 60%), loan translations (1,278 items, 39.1%), and loan blends (30 items, 0.9%).

4.1 The obsolete terms used in AVNs

This section presents the obsolete terms which are still preserved in AVNs but which are no longer used in contemporary VVNs. The obsolete terms are examined in terms of parts of speech, orthography and phonology, lexicon, semantic fields, and semantic shift and maintenance.

4.1.1 Parts of speech of the obsolete terms

A large majority of the 334 obsolete terms were nouns (264 items, 79%), followed by verbs (46 items, 13.8%), with adjectives ranked third (19 items, 5.7%). Adverbs and conjunctions ranked fourth, with 2 items each (0.6%), and 1 idiom was included (0.3%). Based on the research results, nouns are the main categories of obsolete terms preserved in AVNs.

A large proportion of the obsolete nouns preserved in AVNs were certainly very common under the Southern Vietnamese government before 1975 and are often very familiar to the Vietnamese Australian émigrés. These nouns are various terms relating to daily life and cover the full range of noun semantics, including people, places, objects, events, substances, qualities and concepts (Hoang, 1996). The Vietnamese obsolete nouns preserved in AVNs are connected to politics, legal terms, government, culture, society, business, education, health, technology and science, and tourism, and they are typically related to the South Vietnamese people's life under the pre-1975 Southern government. Maintaining the obsolete nouns in AVNs reflects the fact that these older nouns are very familiar to Vietnamese Australian émigrés.

4.1.2 Orthography and phonology of the obsolete terms

The AVNs still use older regional expressions which are written and pronounced according to the orthography of the older South Vietnamese dialect used before 1975. These older South Vietnamese expressions are also well-known as phonetic variants of expressions. In the corpus, 61 items (18.3%) were part of the older South Vietnamese dialect found in AVNs. However, these older South Vietnamese expressions are no longer used, but are instead replaced by contemporary equivalent expressions called *từ ngữ toàn dân* (lit. 'expressions for all the Vietnamese people'). Table 1 shows typical examples of the older South Vietnamese expressions used in AVNs and their contemporary equivalent expressions used in VVNs.

Table 1: Differences of orthography & pronunciations of Vietnamese expressions in Australia & in Vietnam

AVNs		VVNs		Gloss
Elements (in bold) of the words used in AVNs	Pronunciation of the bold elements	Elements (in bold) of the words used in VVNs	Pronunciation of the bold elements	
chánh phủ	[cap]	chính phủ	[cip]	government
thợ chánh	[cap]	chính (thợ chính)	[cip]	main worker
sinh viên	[ʃaŋ]	sinh viên	[ʃaŋ]	student
tính cách	[tap]	tính cách	[tip]	personality
cá nhon	[ɲɔŋ]	cá nhân	[ɲɔŋ]	individual
duy nhứt	[ɲuət]	duy nhất	[ɲɪt]	unique
Nhật Bản	[ɲuət]	Nhật Bản	[ɲɪt]	Japan
chun	[cun]	chân	[cɛn]	foot
hạnh phúc	[fuxk]	hạnh phúc	[fuk]	happy
an khương	[xuɔŋ]	an khang	[xaŋ]	in security & good health

As is evident in Table 1, the older and contemporary expressions have similar meanings but are different in terms of orthography (in bold type) and pronunciation for the Vietnamese in Australia and in Vietnam. For example, AVNs use older South Vietnamese expressions which are pronounced and written following the mode of the South Vietnamese dialect: **chánh phủ** ‘government’, **sinh viên** ‘student’, **cá nhon** ‘individual’, and so on. These older South Vietnamese expressions have the syllables **chánh**, **sinh**, and **nhon**, which are considered dialectal, obsolete and variants of **chính**, **sinh**, and **nhân** respectively in some expressions originating from Sino-Vietnamese (Hoang 1996). In the VVNs, the older South Vietnamese expressions **chánh phủ** ‘government’, **sinh viên** ‘student’, and **cá nhon** ‘individual’ are replaced by the contemporary equivalent expressions **chính phủ** ‘government’, **sinh viên** ‘student’, and **cá nhân** ‘individual’ respectively.

These older South Vietnamese expressions used in AVNs do not appear in the *Contemporary Vietnamese dictionary* edited by Hoang (1996) or the *South Vietnamese dialect dictionary* edited by Huynh (2007). This shows that these older Southern Vietnamese expressions are not now considered standard, but rather are examples of a regional dialect. They exist only in the spoken language in Vietnam and only in Southern dialects, where they are reflective of the typical way of writing and speaking of the South Vietnamese people.

This preservation of the older Southern regional expressions, which were phonetic variants, shows the extent and diversity of the pre-1975 characteristics, especially the Southern dialect characteristics of the Vietnamese of Australian Vietnamese émigrés.

4.1.3 Lexicon

In terms of the lexicon, almost all obsolete terms maintained in AVNs published in Australia are old Sino-Vietnamese expressions. In the data collected, there are 202 obsolete terms (60.5%) used in AVNs which existed as entries in a representative Sino-Vietnamese dictionary (Dao 2004). These obsolete terms are very rarely used in contemporary VVNs, and they are portrayed as old-fashioned and labelled as obsolete by an authoritative contemporary Vietnamese dictionary (Hoang 1996). Typical examples of such obsolete terms found in AVNs are *nữ lưu* ‘female intellectuals/upper strata’, *hoạch tài* ‘ill-gotten gains’, *bình bút* ‘writer, journalist’, *lữ quán* ‘inn/hotel’, *thán khí* ‘carbonic’, and *(trại) tế bần* ‘alms-house’. The following are several typical examples collected in AVNs but no longer used in VVNs.

In terms of ‘government-related services’ (see Table 3), the AVNs still use obsolete terms, such as *chiếu khản* ‘visa,’ which were used in South Vietnam before 1975. The expression *chiếu khản* ‘visa’ is no longer used in VVNs and also does not exist in a standard contemporary Vietnamese dictionary (Hoang 1996). In VVNs, the expression *chiếu khản* ‘visa’ has been replaced by the expression *thị thực* ‘visa’.

In addition, in terms of foreign geographical names and personal names (see Table 3), the AVNs still use obsolete terms of the geographical name *Á Căn Đình* ‘Argentina’ and personal name *Lã Phụng Tiên* ‘La

Fontain', which were used in South Vietnam before 1975. According to traditional transcription, Vietnamese has older forms of foreign geographical and personal names which were formerly based on Sino-Vietnamese lexical patterns (see the Appendix). In VVNs, the obsolete terms *Á Căn Đình* 'Argentina' and *Lã Phụng Tiên* 'La Fontaine' are no longer used and are replaced by the equivalent original western spellings *Argentina* and *La Fontaine* respectively.

In summary, almost all of the obsolete terms used in AVNs are older Sino-Vietnamese expressions. In addition, these older expressions are either noted as old-fashioned or labelled as obsolete in the contemporary Vietnamese dictionary edited by Hoang (1996). These obsolete terms are no longer used in, and have been eliminated from, contemporary VVNs, and have been replaced by equivalent contemporary expressions.

4.1.4 Semantic fields of the obsolete terms

The obsolete terms used in AVNs were examined in terms of semantic fields (Vries 1988; Phongsak 1991; Clyne 2003; Schmidt 2003, Nguyen 2007). Table 2 outlines the number and percentage of obsolete terms collected in AVNs in each semantic field.

Table 2: Number and percentage of obsolete terms in each semantic field

Semantic fields	Number	Percentage
Government and politics	64	19.2%
Foreign geographical names and personal names	60	18%
Legal	33	9.9 %
Employment	29	8.7%
Business and economy	25	7.5%
Education	19	5.7%
Personality and people	18	5.4%
Religion and rites	15	4.5%
Health	14	4.2%
Cars/vehicles/aviation and transport	9	2.7%
Sports (entertainment/leisure)	8	2.4%
Tourism	6	1.8%
Technology and science	5	1.5%
Names of organisations	3	0.9 %
Flora and fauna	3	0.9%
Housing and dwellings	1	0.3%
Miscellaneous	22	6.6%
Total	334	100%

As shown in Table 2, the largest group of obsolete terms used in AVNs fell into the semantic fields of 'government and politics' (64 items, 19.2%), followed by 'foreign geographical names and personal names' (60 items, 18%), with 'legal' ranked third (33 items, 9.9%). The Vietnamese Australian émigrés – the majority of them being Southern Vietnamese – brought the older southern expressions and still use them in their own newspapers and daily life. Table 3 illustrates the expressions used differently by the Vietnamese in Australia and in homeland Vietnamese.

In terms of semantic fields, the obsolete lexical items which are closely related to government and politics, and also foreign geographical names and personal names of the pre-1975 Southern government are largely maintained. However, obsolete terms which have not been maintained are connected to various fields of daily life (e.g. business and economy, miscellaneous, education) of Southern Vietnamese from the pre-1975 era.

Table 3: Lexical differences in homeland and Australian Vietnamese

Category	Sub-category	AVNs	VVNs	Gloss
Government and politics	Armed services	Đệ thất hạm đội	Hạm đội 7	7 th Fleet
		hỏa tiễn địa đối không	tên lửa đất đối không	land-to-air missile
	Government titles	Đệ nhất tham vụ Tòa đại sứ	Bí thư thứ nhất Đại sứ quán	First secretary of the Embassy
	Government –related services	chiếu khán	thị thực	visa
		thẻ căn cước	giấy chứng minh nhân dân	identity card
Foreign names	Geographical names	Á Căn Đình	Argentina	Argentina
	Personal names	Lã Phụng Tiên	La Fontaine	La Fontaine
Legal		hải khấu	cướp biển	pirate
		oa trữ (ma túy)	trữ (đồ ăn cắp)	to receive stolen goods
Employment and handy service	Employment	bình bút	người cầm bút	writer, journalist
	Handy service	phu kiều lộ	công nhân cầu đường	road and bridge labourers
Business and Economy	Bank	nhà băng	ngân hàng	bank
	Unit of currency	Mỹ kim	Dollar Mĩ	United States dollar
Miscellaneous		miên viễn	lâu dài	durable, long
		hanh thông	có nhiều may mắn	lots of luck
Education		lục cá nguyệt	học kỳ sáu tháng	semester
		vạn vật học	tự nhiên học	science of nature
Characterisation and People	Characterisation	bất nhơn	bất nhân	heartless
	People	nam nhơn	đàn ông	man
Religion/rite		ai cáo	lời báo tin buồn (cáo phó)	funeral announcement
		chúng sanh	chúng sinh	living beings
Health		niếp hộ tuyến	tuyến tiền liệt	prostate

4.1.4 Semantic shift and maintenance

In the corpus, many expressions used in AVNs often show semantic redefinition (widening or narrowing of contextual use). An example of this phenomenon is shown by the older expression *bôn tẩu* ‘to flee’, described as obsolete by Hoang (1996). Based on the context, he, his wife and daughter were being hunted by foreign agents. The earlier dictionary meaning (Thanh Nghi 1952), and the contemporary dictionary meaning (Hoang 1996) define the obsolete term *bôn tẩu* as ‘travel for business purposes’, whereas in AVNs this obsolete term refers to fleeing for political reasons.

- (3) Ông ấy *bôn tẩu* cùng vợ và đứa con gái 6 tuổi.
 He flee together wife and classifier¹ daughter 6 ages.
 ‘He fled with his wife and 6-year-old daughter’.

Another expression showing an obsolete term redefined from AVNs to VVNs is *viếng* ‘to visit’.

¹ The word *đứa* is a classifier for a child

- (4) *Chúng tôi viếng trại đà điểu.*
We visit farm ostrich.
'We visit ostrich-farm'.

The earlier dictionary meaning (Thanh Nghi 1952) and the contemporary dictionary meaning (Hoang, 1996) list two meanings for *viếng*: (i) to go to visit, such as *viếng bạn* 'to visit a friend', and (ii) to bring offerings to a deceased person, such as *viếng đám ma* 'to visit/attend a funeral'. However, the word *viếng* (Example 4) used in AVNs is used to refer to visiting an ostrich-farm, that is, a location

In contemporary VVNs the expression *viếng* 'to visit' is no longer used to describe a regulation visit such as in (i). Instead, it is only used to show someone's regret in front of the coffin or grave of a deceased person (Hoang 1996), or to describe a visit to a temple. To visit an ostrich-farm, in contemporary Vietnamese, the equivalent expression *tham quan* 'to do sightseeing/ to tour' is now used instead of the expression *viếng*. In our corpus collected from AVNs, the expression *viếng* 'to visit' is also used to refer to a visit to a food shop.

- (5) *Mời khách hàng viếng shop của chúng tôi.*
Invite customers visit shop of us.
'Customers visit our shop please'.

In addition, many expressions used in AVNs have also kept their original meanings, whereas in contemporary VVNs, the semantic scope of these expressions has been changed or narrowed. The expression *lực sĩ*² 'athlete' used in AVNs is used to designate athletes from sports such as freestyle wrestling (see Example 6), rifle-shooting (see Example 7), swimming (see Example 8), and general athletics (see Example 9).

- (6) *Nữ lực sĩ gốc Việt đoạt huy chương vàng môn vật tự do*
Female athlete origin Vietnamese win medal gold subject wrestle freestyle
'Vietnamese Canadian female athlete won a gold medal in freestyle wrestling'
- (7) *Thủ tướng Nhật từng là một lực sĩ môn bắn súng trường*
Prime Minister Japan used be an athlete subject shoot rifle
'Japan Prime Minister used to be an athlete in the field of rifle-shooting'
- (8) *Đám cưới của nữ lực sĩ bơi lội Libby Lenton*
Wedding of female athlete swimming Libby Lenton
'Wedding of the female athlete of swimming Libby Lenton'
- (9) *Lực sĩ chạy tiếp sức Olympic Carl Lewis*
Athlete run give strength Olympic Carl Lewis
'An Olympic Athlete of relay race Carl Lewis'

² According to Dao (2010), on November 30, 1980, Vice Minister of Education of Vietnam Võ Thành Nho and Vice Chairman of Committee of Social Sciences Phạm Huy Thông signed and issued a regulation: '*Một số quy định về chính tả trong sách giáo khoa cải cách giáo dục* (lit. 'Some regulations about orthography in educational reformation textbooks')', which presented rules of writing of the letters 'i' and 'y' as follows:

Either the syllables end with 'i' or 'y', they are written into 'i'. For example, *lực sĩ* 'athlete' → *lực sĩ* 'athlete', *lý trí* 'reason' → *lí trí* 'reason', *thí dụ* 'example' → *thử dụ* 'example' etc. (except for the case of -uy /-wi/ [ui] because it has a different pronunciation and meaning if 'y' is changed to 'i'. For example, *tuy* 'although' → *tui* 'I; me', *tuỷ* '(bone) marrow' → *tủi* 'to feel self-pity', etc.

If syllables have only one vowel 'i' or 'y', or they begin with 'i' or 'y', there is no change. For example, *ý nghĩa* 'meaning' → *ý nghĩa* 'meaning', *y tế* 'medicine' → *y tế* 'medicine', *ỉ eo* 'complain' → *ỉ eo* 'complain', *im* 'quiet' → *im* 'quiet', *yêu* 'love' → *yêu* 'love', etc.

However, these days, the writing of 'i' and 'y' do not consistently follow these regulations but rather are written variously in Vietnamese newspapers in Vietnam.

However, in contemporary VVNs, *lực sĩ* ‘athlete’ is only used to refer to weight-lifters, while VVNs use other nouns for athletes from other sports. For example, the expression *đô vật* ‘wrestler’ is used to designate athletes from wrestling, the expression *xạ thủ* ‘rifle-shooters (lit. ‘gunner’)’ is used to designate athletes from shooting, the expression *kình ngư* ‘swimmers (lit. ‘whale’)’ is used to designate athletes from swimming, and the expression *võ sĩ* ‘boxer’ is used to designate athletes from boxing.

The data shows evidence of redefinition and retention of semantic properties of obsolete terms in AVNs. Semantic senses of words brought to Australia by the Southern Vietnamese prior to 1975 have been maintained for over three decades in Australia and have resisted replacement by new terms from modern Vietnam.

In summary, this section has presented the obsolete terms and their typical characteristics maintained in AVNs. Preservation of obsolete terms in AVNs is one of the distinctive characteristics of the VAC. This is also one of the unique lexical characteristics of a Vietnamese dialect spoken outside Vietnamese territory.

4.2 English loanwords (ELs) borrowed in AVNs

This section explores the characteristics of ELs which are borrowed in AVNs. AVNs have borrowed English expressions extensively from the dominant host country’s language, Australian English, in order to fill gaps in vocabulary such as describing a variety of new and everyday objects as well as concepts related to various areas of life in Australia. The ELs are examined in terms of parts of speech, semantic fields, and types of borrowings, which in turn comprise loanwords, loan translations and loan blends.

4.2.1 Parts of speech of the ELs

A total of 3,243 ELs were found in use by AVNs. A large majority of these borrowed items were nouns (2,840 items, 87.6%) plus noun phrases (194 items, 6%) which relate to names of organisations, education and government policies, followed by adjectives (126 items, 3.9%), with verbs ranked third (75 items, 2.3%). Idioms ranked fourth, with 6 items (0.2%), and 2 adverbs were included (0.06%).

The Vietnamese Australian émigrés who settled in Australia found a completely different language and culture. Their community has been ‘exposed to new areas of cultural knowledge and experience’ (Winford 2003:37). Hence, they needed to borrow loan words extensively from the dominant host country’s language in order to ‘designate new things, persons, places, and concepts’ which is ‘a universal cause of lexical innovation’ (Weinreich 1974: 56). The portrayal of new things, persons, places, and concepts is one of main functions of nouns: to denote ‘a person, place, thing, event, substance or quality, concepts and terms’ (Hoang 1996).

In contemporary homeland Vietnamese, nouns are also the major borrowed category in terms of loan words. In terms of English loan words relating to life and used in homeland Vietnamese, Do (2005) showed that nouns are also the primary borrowed category compared with other kinds of word-class. In his corpus of 546 English loan words, nouns made up 73.8%, followed by verbs (15.2%) and adjectives (6.3%). Adjuncts and pronouns ranked fourth (2%) and fifth (1.4%) respectively and interjections made up 1.3% (cited in Nguyen 2007:345).

Borrowed nouns, therefore, predominate when compared with any other type of word classes, both in the Vietnamese language of VAC and in Vietnamese language in Vietnam. This phenomenon is consistent with the common fact that nouns are the preferred borrowing category from donor languages to recipient languages when two languages are in contact.

4.2.2 Semantic fields

This section presents ELs used in AVNs examined in terms of semantic fields (Vries 1988; Phongsak 1991; Clyne 2003; Schmidt 2003, Nguyen 2007). The lexical items in the corpus were grouped into semantic fields based on their meaning and the lexical items which can be grouped in multiple domains are categorised depending on the context in which they occurred. Each broad category comprises various sub-categories. For example, the ELs *meat pies*, *T-bone steak*, *bacon and eggs*, *hot dog*, *milkfish*, *pasta*, *burger*, and *bread crumbs* are classified under loanwords related to the sub-category of ‘Foods’, and English loanwords such as *whiskey*, *champagne*, *red wine*, *cognac*, *diet soda*, *stubbies*, *apple juice*, *beer*, *diet coke*, *hot chocolate*, and *decaf* fall into a sub-category of ‘Beverages/Drinks’. The sub-categories ‘Foods’ and ‘Beverages/Drinks’ are classified into a broad category Cuisine and Culinary’.

Table 4: Number and percentage of ELs used in AVNs in each semantic fields

Semantic Fields of English borrowed expressions used in AVNs		No.	%
Broad categories	Sub-categories		
Health	Medical terms, diseases, viruses, medicines, treatment methods, dental service, foot care, eye care, medical, devices/equipment, smoking and illegal drugs	285	8.8
Business and Economy	Business, finance, taxation, banking, investment, stock, accounting, advertisement, economy	263	8.1
Cars/vehicles/aviation and transportation	New car technology, car and vehicle repair, driver's license, names of cars, vehicles, transportation, aviation	249	7.7
Housing and dwelling	House types, house renovation, house equipment/devices, household appliances, houseware, house security, furniture, termite treatment services	245	7.6
Cuisine and Culinary	Foods, meals, seafood, beverages/drinks, cooking (kitchen ware, cooking oils spices), cakes and cake making	217	6.7
Education	Preschools, colleges, studies, courses, subjects, exams, certificate, staff/teachers	208	6.4
Personal services	Care products, care services, hair services, nail services	205	6.3
Technology and science	Technology, chemical substances, gas, acids, digital devices	189	5.8
Entertainment/leisure	Music, movies, sports, dancing, art, gambling, related to entertainment/leisure	183	5.6
Employment and handyman services	Name of occupations, handyman, cleaning, electrical/alarm/camera, and glass services	174	5.4
Government and politics	Government services, government titles, pensions/allowances, election, armed services, medals, politics, and names of parties	160	4.9
Legal	Courts, crime, law, punishment	149	4.6
Telecommunication services	Telephone, television, computer and Internet (computers, Internet, email, webpage, software)	114	3.5
Fauna and Flora	Animals, fishes, plants, vegetable, nuts, flowers, related to fauna and flora (farm, garden)	106	3.3
Organisation and place names	Place names, names of organisations	63	1.9
Construction	Construction, building materials, related to construction	53	1.6
Appearance	Clothing, jewellery, related to appearance	52	1.6
Shopping	Shopping, shop types, related to shopping	50	1.5
Tourism	Travel, landscapes, hotels, gifts	42	1.3
Characterisation	(no sub-categories)	32	0.9
Insurance	(no sub-categories)	24	0.7
Family	(no sub-categories)	10	0.3
Environment	(no sub-categories)	08	0.2
Religion	(no sub-categories)	06	0.2
Miscellaneous	(no sub-categories)	156	4.8

In the corpus assembled for the present study, the ELs used in AVNs occur in a variety of semantic categories together with their wide range of themes (sub-categories) of semantic fields (Table 4). Overall, there are twenty-five broad semantic categories, including economy, politics, legal, government, culture, society, technology, science, religion, tourism, traffic, housing, construction, fashion, appearance, cuisine and culinary, entertainment, among others.

In the corpus collected from AVNs, the dominant ELs belong to the semantic fields of 'Health' (285 items, 8.8%), followed by 'Business and Economy' (263 items, 8.1%), and 'Cars/Vehicles/Aviation and Transportation' (249 items, 7.7%) respectively, with 'Housing and Dwelling' ranked fourth (245 items,

7.6%). Those ELs related to these semantic fields are essential and ubiquitous in the daily life of Vietnamese Australian émigrés.

Table 5: Comparison of English loan words in AVNs and VVNs in terms of semantic fields

AVNs	VVNs
Health	Entertainment (music, movie, sport)
Business and economy	Electronic technology telecommunications and information
Cars/vehicles/aviation and transportation	Clothing and fashion
Housing and dwelling	Eating and drinking
Cuisine and culinary	Expressions related to individuals, communication and feelings
Education	Market economy
Personal services	Expressions related to management
Technology and science	Other words
Entertainment and leisure	
Employment and handyman services	
Government and politics	
Legal	
Telecommunication services	
Fauna and flora	
Names of organisation and place names	
Construction	
Appearance	
Shopping	
Tourism	
Characterisation	
Insurance	
Family	
Environment	
Religion	
Miscellaneous	

Table 5, organized by semantic fields, compares loan words in terms of semantic fields used in AVNs and VVNs (cited from Nguyen 2007:333-336). As can be seen in this table, loan words in terms of semantic fields borrowed in AVNs are more diverse than those in homeland Vietnamese. ELs borrowed in AVNs are therefore more numerous and diverse in terms of semantic fields than those in homeland Vietnamese. The VAC has borrowed ELs related to semantic fields which are essential and most frequent in the daily life of Vietnamese Australian émigrés. But Vietnamese language in Vietnam principally borrows loan words conveying new concepts that have no Vietnamese equivalents, such as loan words related to terms of technology, telecommunications, information, entertainment industry, science and the market economy. This characteristic differentiates the VAC from homeland Vietnamese in its adaptation of ELs in terms of semantic fields.

4.2.3 Types of borrowings

4.2.3.1 Loanwords

This section describes the ELs as they are used in AVNs. In our corpus, there are 1,935 English loanwords (60% of all tokens). The ELs are adapted to the phonological system of Vietnamese and are transcribed

according to Vietnamese phonology with added tones, diacritics, and/or hyphens between syllables. ELs which are converted in this way are more prevalent in the spoken language, according to informal observations based on the researcher's experience when taking part in the daily social and cultural activities of the Vietnamese Australian community in Brisbane, Queensland. Table 6 shows Vietnamese expressions which are presented normally in the Vietnamese context used in AVNs (the new Vietnamese expressions presented in the first column, followed by their transcription and their ELs from which these Vietnamese expressions are adapted phonetically and semantically):

Table 6: Adapted English loanwords

New Vietnamese expressions	transcription	←	Derivation	transcription
ơ-cao	[ɤ kao]	←	account	[ə'kaunt]
seo-phôn	[seə fon]	←	cell phone	[sel foun]
chạc	[cak]	←	charge	[tʃa:dʒ]
đao-lốt	[daə lət]	←	down load	[.daun'ləʊd]
hai-tách	[hai tak]	←	hitech	[haitek]
neo/nêu	[neə / neu]	←	nail	[neil]
ọc-đơ	[ɔk dɤ]	←	order	[ˈɔ:də]
pi-lót-thót	[pi lət tʰət]	←	pillow talk	[ˈpiləʊ tɔ:k]
xì-cút-tơ	[si ku tɤ]	←	scooter	[ˈsku:tə]

Table 6 shows that the new Vietnamese expressions used in AVNs are pronounced similarly to the ELs from which these Vietnamese expressions are adapted phonetically and semantically as can be seen from their transcription. In the corpus collected in AVNs, the ELs have been Vietnamised following similar rules to those found in VVNs (see Nguyen 2007).

The AVNs not only use English loanwords for new things and concepts for which there are no ready Vietnamese equivalents. They also use English loanwords even although the Vietnamese language itself has equivalent expressions. Table 7 shows that each English word used in AVNs (columns 1 and 3) has a Vietnamese equivalent word (columns 2 and 4). However, AVNs prefer using English loanwords instead of the existing words in Vietnamese language in Vietnam. This phenomenon shows that these English loanwords are familiar and more widely used than the Vietnamese equivalents. It is also a result of close contact between the Vietnamese language with English as the host country's language.

Table 7: English words used in AVNs and Vietnamese equivalent words

English words used in AVNs (column 1)	Vietnamese equivalent words (column 2)	English words used in AVNs (column 3)	Vietnamese equivalent words (column 4)
account	tài khoản	insurance	bảo hiểm
agent	đại lý	license	giấy phép
cash	tiền mặt	nail	móng (tay, chân)
casino	sòng bạc	nursing home	nơi an dưỡng; viện dưỡng lão
charge	tính giá (bao nhiêu)	pharmacy	nhà thuốc; tiệm thuốc
city council	hội đồng thành phố	police	cảnh sát
claim (tax)	đòi (thuế)	pumpkin	bí đỏ
day off	ngày nghỉ	sale	hạ giá
gamble	đánh bài	seat belt	dây an toàn
half price	nửa giá bình thường	sun cream	kem chống nắng

The AVNs are published and circulated in the Vietnamese Australian community, where members of this community are Vietnamese-English bilinguals who have been exposed to English frequently and over an extended period of time. Therefore, the use of ELs in their original forms is communicatively more effective

than ELs used in other forms. In addition, the presence of multiple loanwords in AVNs shows the level of penetration of English loanwords in Vietnamese language in Australia.

4.2.3.2 Loan translations (calques)

In our corpus, there are 1,278 items (39.1%) ELs which are translated into Vietnamese as loan translations. For example, the expression *tiền già* (lit. 'old money') is translated from the English expression *pension age* (see Example 10) and the expression *quan hệ lao tư* (lit. relation (of) capital labour) is translated from the English expression *workchoise* (see Example 11).

- (10) *Bạn đọc có thể nhận quà nếu đã vào tuổi lãnh tiền già* 'pension age'
Readers can receive gift if was on age get money old 'pension age'
'Readers can receive a gift if they have reached pension age'.
- (11) *Chính sách quan hệ lao tư* 'workchoices' *gây thiệt thòi cho công nhân*
Policy relation labour capital 'workchoices' cause disadvantage for worker
'The policy of workchoices causes disadvantages for workers'.

The calques *tiền già* (lit. 'old money') and *quan hệ lao tư* (lit. 'relation (of) capital labour') are accompanied by their source ELs which are 'pension age' and 'workchoise' respectively and are marked by quotation marks. These calques may be at the beginning of the adoption stage, and at least some of these forms can be considered nonce borrowings (cf. Romanie 1995, Grant-Russell 1999, and Yang 2005).

However, ELs are also translated into the Vietnamese language differently in AVNs and VVNs. This is because when translating the ELs into Vietnamese (i) the AVNs and VVNs translate them inconsistently; (ii) the AVNs sometimes translate them inaccurately in terms of grammar; (iii) the AVNs sometimes use Vietnamese expressions incorrectly to translate them; and (iv) the AVNs tend to favour the use of Sino-Vietnamese expressions and grammar. This leads to confusing calques presented in AVNs and in VVNs. For example, in AVNs, the loan word 'euthanasia' is translated as two different Vietnamese variants: '*nan y tử quyền*' and '*chết êm dịu*'.

- a. *nan y tử quyền* b. *chết êm dịu*.
incurable die right die gentle
'euthanasia' 'euthanasia'

But in VVNs, the loan word 'euthanasia' is translated as three different Vietnamese variants: '*an tử*', '*cái chết êm ái*', and '*trợ tử*'.

- a. *an tử* b. *cái chết êm ái* c. *trợ tử*
peaceful die death mild help die
'euthanasia' 'euthanasia' 'euthanasia'

In AVNs, the ELs which are loan-translated into Vietnamese sometimes do not follow Vietnamese grammar, but follow English grammar, resulting in a difference between Vietnamese in AVNs and in VVNs. A typical case involves the equivalence of English pre-modification with Vietnamese post-modification of head nouns. The following example illustrates that 'biological fuel' used in AVNs is translated into Vietnamese according to the norms of English word-order.

- (12) *Sử dụng các loại sinh nhiên liệu làm từ mía*
Use all type biological fuel make from sugar cane
'Using types of bio-fuel which is made from sugar-cane'.

However, in VVNs, the ELs 'biological fuel' is translated into Vietnamese following the norms of Vietnamese word order, as in this example collected from the VVNs.

- (13) Asian ưu tiên dự án nghiên cứu nhiên liệu sinh học
 Asian priority project research fuel biology
 'Asia gives priority to research on bio-fuel'.

In example (12), *sinh nhiên liệu* 'biological fuel' is translated into Vietnamese according to the norms of English word order: *sinh* 'biology' is placed before *nhiên liệu* 'fuel'. But in example (13), *nhiên liệu sinh học* 'biological' is translated into Vietnamese following the norms of Vietnamese word order: *nhiên liệu* 'fuel' is placed before *sinh học* 'biology'.

Translating ELs into Vietnamese as loan translations is a vigorous and productive pattern of lexical adaptation of English expression into Vietnamese. When these calques are used many times in AVNs, they appear to gradually become more familiar to Vietnamese Australian émigré and are not accompanied by their source ELs. Finally, these calques have the potential to enter the accepted vocabulary of the Vietnamese Australian community. There are, therefore, numerous ELs which are Vietnamised through loan translation which are used in AVNs. On the other hand, the translation of the ELs into Vietnamese is considered to be one of the preferred methods for borrowing and using foreign loanwords. These calques have gained popularity and enrich the vocabulary of the VAC.

4.2.3.3 Loan blends

The new Vietnamese expressions created in AVNs are loan blends. In the corpus collected from AVNs, there are 30 Vietnamese expressions (0.9%) which are formed by compounding one Vietnamese/English element with one English/Vietnamese element, as in the examples in (14).

- (14) Vietnamese verb + English noun → New Vietnamese expression
- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|-----------------|---|--|
| a. | <i>mở</i>
to open | + | <i>business</i> | → | <i>mở business</i>
to open business
'to open a business' |
| b. | <i>điền</i>
to fill | + | <i>form</i> | → | <i>điền form</i>
to fill form
'to fill in a form' |
| c. | <i>đi</i>
to go | + | <i>brunch</i> | → | <i>đi brunch</i>
to go brunch
'to go to brunch' |

In examples (14a) and (14b), the Vietnamese verbs *mở* 'to open' and *điền* 'to fill' combine with the English nouns *business* and *form* respectively in order to coin the expressions *mở business* 'to open a business' and *điền form* 'to fill a form' respectively. The expressions presented in example (14c) have the same structure in which the Vietnamese verb *đi* 'to go' compounds with the English noun *brunch* in order to coin expressions *đi brunch*.

- (15) Vietnamese nouns + English nouns → New Vietnamese expressions
- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|------------------|---|--|
| a. | <i>bánh</i>
cake | + | <i>apple</i> | → | <i>bánh apple</i>
cake apple
'apple cake' |
| b. | <i>cá</i>
fish | + | <i>barra</i> | → | <i>cá barra</i>
fish baramundi
'barramundi' |
| c. | <i>đá</i>
rock | + | <i>bush rock</i> | → | <i>đá bush rock</i>
rock bush rock
'bush rock' |
| d. | <i>thẻ</i>
card | + | <i>phone</i> | → | <i>thẻ phone</i>
card phone
'phone card' |

e.	<i>tiền</i> money	+	<i>bond</i>	→	<i>tiền bond</i> money bond 'bond money'
f.	<i>tội</i> offence	+	<i>abuse</i>	→	<i>tội abuse</i> offence abuse 'offence of abuse'

In Vietnamese spoken in Vietnam, the compound expressions presented above are known as main secondary compound expressions in which a main element (first item) indicates general and large things or features, and a secondary element (second item) is used to indicate the denomination of those things or features concretely. In other words, the secondary element has the effect of classifying the large things or features which are named by the main element to produce a more precise expression (Diep and Hoang 2002;53).

Typical examples of this combination are found in example (15a), where the main secondary compound expression *bánh apple* 'apple cake' includes the main element *bánh* 'cake' which is a classification noun indicating a cake in general, and the secondary element *apple* which modifies the main element *bánh* 'cake' and specifies what kind of *bánh* 'cake' it is. The secondary element *apple* has the function of distinguishing this type of cake from other cakes. That is a specific type of cake, an 'apple cake' but not a cake in general.

In example (15.b), the new expressions *cá barra* ('barra' is abbreviated form of 'barramundi', a species of Australian fish) are coined by compounding the Vietnamese noun *cá* 'fish', which is a classification noun indicating that it is a type of fish in general, with the English noun which is an indicator of the fish species 'barramundi' in order to specify what kind of fish it is.

Although the new expressions coined by compounding one Vietnamese noun with one English noun are not significantly represented in our corpus, this manner of combining can still have a significant potential for producing many mixed expressions in AVNs. For example, Vietnamese nouns such as *cá* 'fish' can compound with many English proper nouns denoting fish, such as *barramundi*, *snapper*, *salmon*, *whiting*, *trout* and *bream* in order to coin new expressions like *cá barramundi* 'barramundi', *cá snapper* 'snapper', *cá salmon* 'salmon', *cá whiting* 'whiting', *cá trout* 'trout', *cá bream* 'bream'. This phenomenon of combining a noun of a borrowed language with an English loanword in order to coin an expression has been observed in Thai newspapers. Phongsak (1991;94) shows that a Thai classification noun *rót*, which is 'a moving vehicle on land', compounds with the English noun *taxi* in order to coin the expression *rót-taxi*. Another example is the Thai classification noun *sàmmùt*, which is a type of book, which compounds with the English noun *note* in order to create the expression *sàmmùt-note* ('note' means 'notbook') (Phongsak 1991;201).

(16) English nouns + Vietnamese nouns → New Vietnamese expressions

a.	<i>shop</i>	+	<i>rau</i> vegetables	→	<i>shop rau</i> shop vegetables 'vegetable shop'
b.	<i>visa</i>	+	<i>cầu</i> bridge	→	<i>visa cầu</i> visa bridging 'bridging visa'

In the group of new Vietnamese expressions presented in example (16a), the English noun *shop*, which indicates that it is a shop in general, compounds with the Vietnamese nouns *rau* 'vegetable' in order to coin the new expressions *shop rau* 'vegetable shop'.

In example (16b), the expression *visa cầu* is coined by combining the English noun *visa*, denoting a visa in general, with the Vietnamese noun *cầu* 'bridge'. This technique of compounding, namely, one English noun with one Vietnamese noun in order to create a new mixed expression – in this case one specifically tied to Australian immigration regulations – has significant potential for producing hybridised expressions in AVNs. For instance, the English noun *shop* can combine with many kinds of Vietnamese nouns such as *cá* 'fish', *thịt* 'meat', *quần áo* 'clothing', *giày* 'shoes', *hoa* 'flower', *trái cây* 'fruit', *rau* 'vegetables', among others in order to coin new mixed expressions such as *shop cá*, *shop thịt*, *shop quần áo*, *shop giày*, *shop hoa*, *shop trái cây*, and *shop rau* respectively.

Expressions used in AVNs and coined by compounding one Vietnamese/English element with one English/Vietnamese element are created and used more commonly in AVNs than that in VVNs. On the other hand, the number of these expressions collected from written language (from AVNs) is not significant compared with other types of borrowing. However, based on the researcher's observations of the daily social and cultural activities of the Vietnamese Australian community in Brisbane, the number of expressions coined in this manner by Vietnamese Australian people in their daily conversation (spoken language) is undoubtedly significant and merits further research.

5. Conclusion

The characteristics of Vietnamese lexis used by AVNs are a key property of the VAC in contrast to homeland Vietnamese. The VAC still maintains many obsolete expressions originating from and related to the Southern Vietnamese political institutions of the pre-1975 Southern government. In addition, the VAC has borrowed ELs through close contact with Australian English and uses them extensively in order to fill gaps in vocabulary and to enrich its vocabulary. ELs were not only borrowed in their original forms but also were Vietnamised through the mechanism of loanwords and loan translation by AVNs. Moreover, hybridised expressions were coined through the compounding of one English/Vietnamese item with a Vietnamese/English item through loan blending by Vietnamese Australian émigrés. The presence of original and creative formations in émigré Australian Vietnamese is an important sign of linguistic vitality. Rather than simply imitating Australian English models, the speakers show both strong loyalty to their language and culture, and a commitment to the development of vocabulary based on native Vietnamese patterns and principles.

Research on the VAC contributes to sociolinguistics and language contact knowledge in general, to the study of language contacts and migrant languages in Australia, and potentially to the study of the Vietnamese language outside Vietnam. In terms of applied research, this study's results could make a practical contribution to the teaching and learning of Vietnamese as a foreign language to Vietnamese Australians of the younger generations, other younger Vietnamese nationals who reside abroad, and also foreigners who want to study Vietnamese as a foreign language.

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Appendix

Typical examples are geographical names such as *A Phú Hãn* ‘Afghanistan’ and *Ái Nhĩ Lan* ‘Ireland’ which follow Chinese naming convention: 阿富汗 [a fú hàn] and 爱尔兰 [ài ěr lán] respectively, and foreign personal names such as *Lã Phụng Tiên* ‘La Fontaine’ and *Nã Phá Luân* ‘Napoleon’ follow Chinese patterns as well: 拉封丹 [La Fang dan] and 拿破倫 [Na po lun] respectively. However, nowadays some older Sino-Vietnamese forms of geographical and personal names are not used (see ‘Regulation about Vietnamese orthography and Vietnamese terms’ issued by Vietnamese Educational Ministry on Mar 5, 1984 below). There are, generally, two reasons why the older Sino-Vietnamese forms of foreign geographical and personal names are no longer used in VVNs: (i) the majority of Vietnamese are not Chinese-Vietnamese bilingual speakers, so the older forms of the foreign geographical and personal names which were formerly in the Sino-Vietnamese pattern are no longer appropriate, or indeed readily understood by a majority of Vietnamese people (Hoang 2006); and (ii) documents related to the standardisation of writing and using foreign geographical and personal names in Vietnamese language in Vietnam issued by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education on Mar 5, 1984 (Bo Giao Duc 1984), have become accepted and authoritative. The three main regulations presented in this document as guides on how to write/use foreign geographical and personal names in Vietnamese include the following.

(a) If foreign geographical and personal names are originally written in the Latin alphabet (e.g. *Washington*, *Queensland* and *Elizabeth*), these foreign geographical and personal names are written in their original forms in Vietnamese;

(b) If foreign geographical and personal names were not written in the Latin alphabet (e.g. *Afghanistan*, *Arabic*, *Japanese*, *Russian*, *Thai*, etc.), then these foreign geographical and personal names are written

following the current official transliteration based on their own government's regulations (e.g. *Afghanistan*, *Arabic*, *Japanese*, *Russia*, *Thai*, etc.);

(c) If the foreign geographical and personal names were formerly Vietnamised and their transcriptions have become extremely familiar to Vietnamese speakers, such as *Anh* 'England', *Pháp* 'France', *Mỹ* 'The United States of America', *Ba Lan* 'Poland', *Thổ Nhĩ Kỳ* 'Turkey', *Đức* 'Germany', *Nga* 'Russia', *Trung Quốc* 'China', *Thụy Sĩ* 'Switzerland', *Tây Ban Nha* 'Spain', and *Bồ Đào Nha* 'Portugal', etc., then the transcriptions of these foreign names are used. For example, Vietnamese spoken in Vietnam continues to use *Anh*, *Pháp*, *Mỹ*, *Ba Lan*, *Thổ Nhĩ Kỳ*, *Đức*, *Nga*, *Trung Quốc*, *Thụy Sĩ*, *Tây Ban Nha*, *Bồ Đào Nha* instead of English, France, America, Poland, Turkey, Germany, Russia, China, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal respectively.