

Book Review

I. NEW BOOK

TRIỀU NGUYỄN: *Góc nhìn cấu trúc về truyện ngụ ngôn dân gian Việt Nam*, H.: Nhà xuất bản Khoa học Xã hội, 2004, 224 tr.

TRIEU NGUYEN: *Structural View on the Vietnamese Folklorique Fables*, H.: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004, 224 p.

By the research on the fables under the structural view, the author of the specialized essay gives out a system of structural models of Vietnamese folklorique fables on the base of discriminating the fables with other genres and folklorique fable with erudite one. Besides, we can realize the characteristics on construction, characters as well as the significance of the Vietnamese folklorique fables.

The book contains 4 parts:

Part 1: Generalization

Part 2: Characteristics of Fables

Part 3: System of the Structural Models of Fables

Part 4: Some Comparisons, Remarks and Conclusion

NGUYỄN THỊ BÍCH HÀ: *Đặc điểm cấu tạo thuật ngữ thương mại Nhật - Việt*, H.: Nhà xuất bản Khoa học Xã hội, 2004, 400 tr.

NGUYEN THI BICH HA: *Characteristics on the Formation of the Japanese - Vietnamese Trade Terms*, H.: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004, 400p.

In the globalization and regionalization trend of the economy in the world at present, Vietnam has developed strongly its economical integration with other countries, especially Japan. Therefore, this book is a very up-grade collection and has gained high appreciations on scientific matter because it involves and deals with terminological problems in general and the system of trade terms in Japanese as well as Vietnamese in particular.

The book consists of 3 chapters:

Chapter 1: Some Theoretical Backgrounds on the Access of the Japanese and Vietnamese Terminology.

Chapter 2: Characteristics on the Formation of the Japanese and Vietnamese Trade Terms.

Chapter 3: Denomination Characteristics of the Japanese and Vietnamese Trade Terms.

NGUYỄN TRI NIÊN: *Ngôn ngữ báo chí*, H., Nxb. Khoa học xã hội, 2004, 95 tr.

NGUYEN TRI NIEN: *Language of Press*, H., Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004, 95 pages.

The language of press have its specific characteristics and information process .

Apart from *Introduction*, this work comprises of 2 main parts:

- Characteristics of language of press
- Information process of language of press

Following *Conclusion*, *Appendix* includes researches into some detail issues of modern Vietnamese language of press.

NGUYỄN HỮU HIẾU: *Tim hiểu nguồn gốc địa danh Nam Bộ*, H.: Nhà xuất bản Khoa học Xã hội, 2004, 282 tr.

NGUYEN HUU HIEU: *Research on the Origin of Southern Typonymies*, H.: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004, 282 p.

The books gives a deeply research on the origin of Southern typonymies when involving in many related fields such as the history, geography, ethnography, archeology and history of Vietnamese language. Therefore, the author tells some tales in order to describe the typical characteristics on natural geography, history, culture and dialect of this new area.

The book includes the following parts:

Part 1: Brief Outline on Southern Typonymies.

- I. Some characteristics of the Southern areas that affect to the typonymic formation
- II. Characteristics on the Southern areas' structure
- III. Characteristics on mutation

Part 2: Southern Typonymies'origin through Some Tales and Hypothesis.

- I. Characteristics of the tales and hypothesis that relate to Southern typonymies.
- II. Some typical tales and hypothesis relate to the origin of Southern typonymies.

ĐỖ THỊ BẢY - MAI ĐỨC HẠNH: *Văn hoá ẩm thực của người Ninh Bình*, H.: Nhà xuất bản Khoa học Xã hội, 2004, 254 tr.

DO THI BAY - MAI DUC HANH, *Culture on Gastronomy of the People in the Ninh Binh Province*, H.: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2004, 254 p.

In this book, the dishes of Ninh Binh people are recorded not only to help the readers know and understand more about the land and people in the Ninh Binh province but also to give a real contribution to the process of preserving and promoting the national cultural colour.

The book consists of 4 chapters:

Chapter 1: Country and People in Ninh Binh

Chapter 2: Products and the Habits of Eating and Drinking of the Ninh Binh's People

Chapter 3: Foods and Beverages of the Ninh Binh's People

Chapter 4: Conclusion

LÝ TOÀN THẮNG, *Lý thuyết trật tự từ trong cú pháp*, H., Nxb. Đại học Quốc gia Hà Nội, 2004, 159 tr.

LY TOAN THANG, *Theory of Word order in Syntax*, H., Publishing House of Hanoi National University, 2004, 159 pages.

Word order plays a very important role in Vietnamese, a typical isolating language.

This work includes 2 main parts, apart from *Introduction*:

Part 1: General Bases of methodology.

Part 2: Specific Researches.

II. BOOK READING

- *Văn học so sánh - Nghiên cứu và dịch thuật*, Nxb. Văn Học, Hà Nội, 2003.

- *Comparative Literature - Research and Translation*, Literature Publishing House, H. 2003.

Together with attention from many scientists on comparative literature (Hoang Trinh, Phuong Luu, Nguyen Van Dan, Truong Dang Dung, Luu Van Bong, Nguyen Khac Phi, Nguyen Truong Lich...) this work on Comparative Literature by writers from the Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities has a really deep theme. As the title has shown, this work has both a researching section (12 articles) and translation section (7 articles). In the translation section, there are theoretical orientations and some pages of research comparing systems of literary ideas, certain writers and works.

The first part of the book is an article by Prof. Tran Thanh Dam that serves as an introduction, generalization. He not only discusses the origin of and how to understand the concept "comparative literature", but also explains and comments on the characteristics of the various representative groups (French, American, and Russian). He also emphasizes the role and achievement of comparative literature in the world and its trend of development in Vietnam. He shows that compilit has 3 parts "The aim of comparative literature study is nothing other than clarifying the nature of literature (literary theory), the development of literature (literary history) and the value of literature (literature commentation) by comparing the similar and different phenomena of various national literatures in a certain relationship. This can be implemented in a direct or indirect, opposite or parallel way, from microscopic (work level) to macroscopic (higher level). The fundamental units to compare are the national literatures. However, because "national " is a category of history, comparative literature applies it flexibly, paying attention to community of history, culture, language, etc. (p. 15-16). He highly appreciated the importance and stance of comparative literature, since then he truly wishes his colleagues and peers to recognize how to start the work so that "from the initial results you can attain much better results ..."

In order to be impartial in the common theoretical issues, translators have chosen sample works to show experienced lessons and orientation for those who are beginning comparative literature: The Starting and Development of Comparative Department (P. Brunel, cl. Pichoise, A.M. Rousseau), Literature Limits and Word Literature (Daniel - Henri Pageaux), Studying General Literature and Historical Versification (G.N. Pospelov), The System of Middle Age Literary Theory (D.C. Hogan). Through these works, readers might grasp the development process of the comparative literature, and clearly realize the themes and care of scholars in the period. On the other hand it is possible to avoid one-sided and extremist researching trend (for example racial attitude, the ambiguity between literary comparison and comparative literature, or the possibility of comparison at dissimilar levels). From general arguments like the law of literary development; effective and similar comparison; the levels of "affection" and "borrowing"; and the possibility that the different national literatures over the world still reach valuable renovation while they lack the

external influences with a fact that the catalytic relation has made a contribution in wakening up the whole region; time of literature, then it is possible to confirm that comparative literature is also becoming "the comparative research object of comparative literature. Especially, in the field of middle age literature, there are many experiments. For example, experiments of the principles of description in writing chronicles and the special position of saint stories, characteristics of leaving orthodox functional literary system outside and the other side with minor styles are more and more having a firmer stance in the stream of literature of works art. And experiment of the possibility that the Renaissance was partly ripening from the East to the West while many theories, trends and modern genres of literature were moving from the western to the Eastern... is a really useful clue and still a coming question for us.

When carrying out to compare some viewpoints, artistic phenomena, writers and distinguished works, researchers often take the national literature as a basis (*Thien* poem of the Ly-Tran time, Vietnam poetic essay, Chinese poems in XVIII-XIX centuries, novels of "beautiful actresses", the *Tale of Kieu* by Nguyen Du, Ho Xuan Huong poems to put in the correlation to comparative objects belonging to literature of China, Japan, South Korea, etc. Articles comparing literary theory between China and India by Duong Ngoc Dung, the origin of "literature" of Vietnam, China, Japan (by Doan Le Giang), and modern novels (N.I. Nikulin), qualitative of Ho Xuan Huong's and Hoang Chan Y's poetry, and the poems and literary composition of Vietnam and China (Nguyen Dinh Phuc) are deeply special investigations and require a full understanding of comparative objects. Here, we put an emphasis on the comparison between the *Kieu Story* and its original version *Kim Van Kieu Story* or put it in a correlation with other works (*Kim Ngu story*) which also get effected by *Kim Van Kieu Story*. Anyway, this is still an absorbing theme, attracting and challenging the researchers of comparative literature by the obvious values of the work and the typicality and prevalence of literary relation. From the orientation of comparative literature and the historical typological comparison, Tran Thi Phuong stressed on the phenomenon of *Kieu story* in a cultural context, deep cultural and literary correlation. By doing so, she could have given a rise to new themes and comparative view. On basis of historical literature, Doan Le Giang has given to scholars a special document of translation *Kim Kieu Story* (12 acts) and the novel of *Kim Ngu Story* by Kyokutei Bakin (1767-1848) which are all written in Japanese. This fact makes a requirement that there need to be a Vietnamese version of *Kim Ngu Story* in order to meet the demand of readers and researchers. Further more, at least since the middle of 18th century, this is also a strong confirmation about the position and wide influence of *Kim Van Kieu Story* out of Chinese border. The relation is also put in the system of reference and others like the system of Sino poetic stories and the spirit of composing modern novels (N.I. Nikulin) or in the system of novel style "beautiful actors" aiming at going further in explaining the deep-rooted aspects of history - culture - society for the appearance of actors - novels, time and type of authors, work's form and structure, the art of building characters and possibility of accepting other genres of literature in "beautiful actress" novels (by Ha Thanh Van). These arguments show the evident position and profit of orientating comparative literature as well as contributing in improving the knowledge level about the relation of *Kieu Story* - *Kim Van Kieu Story* but not to one-sidedly or simply refer *Kim Van Kieu* as just a "dry skeleton", "clay man shape"...

In 1960, the American comparative literature researcher Harry Levin wrote: "We have spent so much energy to discuss on comparative literature - as what I am talking about - but not to put it into practice". In fact, the books of "Comparative literature - research and translation has made many useful things, first of all the confirmation of specialty and experization of theme and is strongly encouraging for the branch of comparative literature research which is more and more paid attention to by scholars.

NGUYEN HUU SON