

with a Vietnamese teacher will always prove helpful.

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Vietnamese-English Dictionary. By NGUYEN-DINH-HOA. Pp. xiv + 568. Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo, Japan: CHARLES E. TUTTLE Co., 1966. \$6.50.

It is a privilege to review any of Dr. Hoa's books.¹ Almost immediately after my arrival in Viet Nam I was introduced to the dictionary and at present, eight years later, I would still not be without it. It is my most frequently used reference on Vietnamese.

Hoa's dictionary was first published in 1955 as a *Vietnamese-English Vocabulary* of approximately 9,000 entries. It was a glossary of basic vocabulary meant primarily for American students of Vietnamese at Columbia University and elsewhere. The present volume has more than doubled the original with more than 20,500 entries and a number of very valuable helps, while still remaining a compact and handy student reference. This was first printed in Saigon by Binh Minh in 1959 and recently reprinted in Japan by Tuttle. The principal differences in the latest edition by Tuttle are the much superior quality of paper and binding, the greater availability and, of course, the higher price.

The choices of entries and of additional helps are excellent. In both categories we may hope for expansion in a future enlarged edition, that is, more entries will undoubtedly be included² and the author states his desire to add other helps, such as "Chinese written symbols for Sino-Vietnamese items, indication of grammatical func-

tions, etc." Translators should have larger dictionaries, but I have failed to find in larger dictionaries by other authors qualities which would enable them to replace this "student" volume. Its definitions are in clear, accurate, and idiomatic English (not translations via French as others appear to be), the print is good and the format makes for easy use.

The Preface is printed in both English and Vietnamese and describes the kinds of morphemes and words included as entries, the additional helps given, and the alphabetization used. Vietnamese, while considered a monosyllabic or non-agglutinative language, has several kinds of highly productive compounding. Some compounds are listed following definitions of roots in order to illustrate some uses of the respective roots; but most compounds are listed as independent entries, e.g. *ăn tiền* 'to take bribes' (literally 'to eat money') or *bướm bướm* 'butterfly'. This is very helpful because of the variety of meanings possible through compounding and because students are assisted in expanding their vocabularies by learning the various compounds formed with frequently used roots. Homophonous forms, which are very frequent, as a result of monosyllabicity and the large number of Chinese loans, are also given separate entries rather than listing all meanings under a single entry as is often done by others. A further improvement might have been the grouping of compounds below their appropriate roots when there are homophonous forms, e.g. *bảo an* belongs under *bảo* 'to protect', whereas *bảo quý* belongs under *bảo* 'precious'.

The additional helps consist of the following markings:

- a) [SV] marks Sino-Vietnamese loan words. [Fr.], etc. are also used to mark other language loans.
- b) *DUP* marks reduplicative patterns.
- c) [R-] and [-R] mark bound forms used as prefixes or suffixes respectively.
- d) *L* marks Literary items not used in usual conversational speech.
- e) an asterisk (*) marks reversible compounds, e.g. *bội phần* or *phần bội* 'to betray'.
- f) *CL* marks classifiers. Most countable nouns

¹ Other books by the same author and published in Japan by Charles E. Tuttle Co. are: *Speak Vietnamese*, *Read Vietnamese*, and *Easy Vietnamese* (previously entitled *Say it in Vietnamese*).

² Hoa has now published a "revised and enlarged edition" in Saigon through the Vietnamese-American Association. This edition appears to contain approximately forty-five thousand entries.

must be preceded by classifier words whenever counted and the same classifiers can also stand alone without the nouns. Therefore the appropriate classifier is indicated for noun entries and typical examples of nouns are given for classifier entries, e.g. *giày* 'shoes' *CL chiếc* 'for one', *đôi* 'for two'.

g) a vertical bar (|) separates meanings which represent separate grammatical functions for the same entry, e.g. *cày* 'to plow|plow' *CL cái*.

h) a slash (/) separates interchangeable items, e.g. *nói đến/tới* 'to speak of'.

i) [=] marks synonyms or Vietnamese equivalents of Chinese loan words.

j) [opp.] marks antonyms.

k) [Cf.] marks items which should be compared.

l) [RV] marks resultative verbs, e.g. *đi* [RV] 'away, off, out'; *đem đi* 'to take away'; *xóa đi* 'to cross off'.

The above markings are not given in all places where they are applicable. They would sometimes be over-repetitious or unnecessary, e.g. reduplicative forms (DUP) are often obvious; however, there is often no apparent reason for failure to mark various features, unless one realizes the difficult circumstances under which the author worked. We would like to see more extensive marking of formal and of colloquial usages, and of distinctive dialectal forms, e.g. *răng* (Huế dialect).

The alphabetization followed is stated to be the traditional one and is easily learned. For example, words beginning with *t-* are listed before those beginning with *th-* or *tr-*, since *th* and *tr* are considered to represent separate unit phonemes. Other phonemes represented by digraphs in the orthography are also treated as units. However, Hoa reverts to a different system (which appears

to be traditional too), when he lists second members of compounds, e.g. *cái-tàng, cái-tạo, cái-thiện, cái-tiến, cái-tổ, cái-trang, cái-tử*. Though it does not seem consistent to use two systems, at least the two are used fairly consistently: one for all single entries or first members and the other for all second members of compounds.

One further helpful feature is a guide to Vietnamese pronunciation for three dialects. The three given are labeled "North," "Central," and "South." As such they are representative of the three principal Vietnamese dialects; however, it should be clarified that one can study common Northern, Central, and Southern dialects which differ somewhat from those given in this guide.³

The guide is arranged in two sets: first, the letters of the orthography which can occur as initials are listed in alphabetical order, each followed by its respective phonetic representation in Northern, Central, and Southern; second, "finals" are listed in the same way. Finals are defined as vowels, diphthongs, glides, and their combinations with semivowels and final consonants. This arrangement is necessary because the pronunciation of final consonants is often determined by preceding vowels. The reverse can be true as well, e.g., *a* is an unmarked short vowel whenever followed by *ch, nh, u,* or *y*, at least in Northern.

I very highly recommend this dictionary to every serious student of Vietnamese, and I anxiously await the publication of an English-Vietnamese dictionary of equal quality.

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³ A striking example is the Central dialect of Huế. See Taylor, Harvey M. "A phonetic description of the tones of the Hue dialect of Vietnamese," *Van-Hoa*, 11 (1962), pp. 1175-1180.

