

A WEBSITE TO SUPPORT TEACHING VIETNAMESE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION - THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY, VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

In the era of digital transformation, integrating information technology into teaching Vietnamese as a foreign language is not only an inevitable trend but also a practical solution to improve the effectiveness and quality of training for international students. Based on practical needs, the project "Building a website to support Vietnamese language teaching for international students at University of Education - Thai Nguyen University" was implemented with the goal of designing a modern, user-friendly digital learning platform that is suitable for the level and needs of learners. The main product of the project is the website Learning Vietnamese through cultural context (<https://tv.ituhoc.edu.vn/>) - an online learning system that integrates Vietnamese language and cultural content, contributing to innovation in teaching and learning Vietnamese for foreigners in Vietnam in the context of digital education.

Keywords: Digital Transformation; International Students; Vietnamese Language Learning Website; Cultural Context; Vietnamese Culture.

1. INTRODUCTION

Teaching Vietnamese to international students in Vietnam is not only to improve language skills but also a way to spread Vietnamese cultural values, enhance understanding and connection between different cultures in the world. Teaching Vietnamese to international students in recent years in Vietnam in general, and at University of Education – Thai Nguyen University in particular, has achieved remarkable results. However, there are still shortcomings such as limited interactive learning materials, limited class time. Besides, the E-learning online learning system has been built and operated but is still subject to the constraints of a certain curriculum framework...

In that context, it is essential to build a multimedia website to support teaching Vietnamese to international students studying Vietnamese at the University of Education - Thai Nguyen University, integrate digital learning materials with Vietnamese learning content through the context of Vietnamese culture, content close to the reality of communication and Vietnamese culture. Besides, we must be open to create a friendly, highly interactive online learning environment, stimulate interest in learning and able to support learners anytime, anywhere.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

Survey method: Using questionnaires and interviews to collect information about the needs, language-cultural characteristics, learning goals and technology usage behavior of the group of international students, thereby orienting the content and appropriate implementation methods.

Content analysis method: Analyzing the Vietnamese language teaching program for foreigners, current textbooks and reference materials to classify and design content suitable for the website development orientation.

Design - development method: Applying the design - development model in educational technology to build the interface, structure and content of the website to ensure the combination of modern pedagogical principles and technological interactivity, aiming at an intuitive learning experience, easy to access and stimulating the language - cultural thinking of learners.

Pedagogical experimental method: Conducting website testing with a group of international students in real conditions, collecting usage data and feedback to adjust and perfect the content and implementation techniques.

Descriptive statistical method: Processing survey data and feedback from learners, orienting for further adjustment and development.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the previous scientific publication <https://ijehss.com/view7.php?issue=3>, we mentioned the results of the survey on the needs of learners; established the core principles and requirements in designing a Vietnamese language teaching website model integrating cultural elements, targeting international students. This article continues to introduce the website product as a practical design product that has been applied and tested.

3.1. Website structure and content

The website *Learning Vietnamese through cultural context* (<https://tv.ituhoc.edu.vn/>) is developed on the WordPress platform, compatible with multiple devices and easy to expand. The overall design is minimalist, clear, easy to operate, helping learners not encounter technical barriers when using it.



Image 1. Website Homepage Interface of Learning Vietnamese through cultural context

- Home page: When accessing the home page, users will see the following items in the navigation bar: *Introduction*: This section presents the goals, target audience and instructions for using the website. *Lessons by topic*: Where users access Vietnamese language lessons in cultural context and do exercises with specific topics. *Student registration*: Registration form for new users without

an account and *Forum*: a place to exchange, discuss and give feedback on learning content with other users (Vietnamese students, lecturers or administrators). The upper right corner is the *Contact*: receiving and giving feedback from learners.

- Content: The content of specific lessons is built around topics that are close and rich in Vietnamese cultural values, such as traditional festivals, folk arts, customs and practices, folk games, etc. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, sample conversations, and practice activities.



Image 2. Thematic Lessons section on the website navigation bar Learning Vietnamese through cultural context



Image 3. Specific Lesson Interface in Lesson Topic on the website

- Below is the *New Reference Articles* section: The 04 most recently published reference articles will be displayed in this section. This is where readers are provided with more useful information

about Vietnamese culture, from greeting culture, New Year wishes, Vietnamese cuisine to traditional cultural values such as ancestor worship or proverbs full of humanistic values.

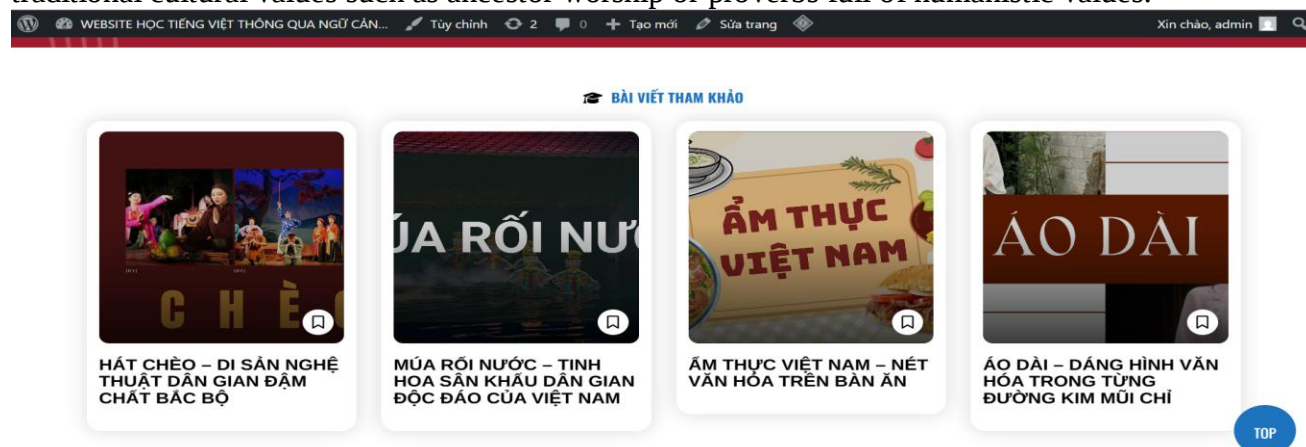


Image 4. New Reference Article Interface on the website Learning Vietnamese through cultural context

- Feedback Corner: After each lesson, reference article always has a comment section. Users can ask questions, share thoughts or feedback on the lesson content.

- The bottom of the website has *shortcuts*: Categories, Archives, Meta, Search



Image 5. Interface of Shortcuts on the website Learning Vietnamese through cultural context

3.2. Experimental results

To verify the feasibility and effectiveness of the website, the project conducted a pedagogical experiment with 34 international students from two Vietnamese Preparatory classes K59A and K59B at University of Education – Thai Nguyen University. The experiment was organized in three stages: (1) Dissemination of information and instructions for use; (2) Implementation of direct use of the website in class and (3) Collection and processing of survey responses.

The survey results show that:

The website interface was rated positively. Accordingly, 91.2% of learners commented from “quite easy” to “very easy” to use; 91.2% said the features were “clear” or “very clear”. The lesson topics were rated as engaging and relevant (79.4%) and the content was appropriate for the learners’ current Vietnamese level (76.4%). Regarding the impact on language and cultural competence, 100% of international students said that their vocabulary and understanding of Vietnamese culture had expanded to the level of “quite a lot” to “very much”. The most clearly improved skills were: vocabulary (32.4%), reading comprehension (23.5%) and listening (20.6%). Learners wanted (85.3%) to continue using the website to learn Vietnamese; expressed satisfaction (79.4%) with the website’s ability to support self-study.

In addition to the positive results, the experiment also showed some limitations that need to be further improved. Accordingly, the interface needs to be more optimized for mobile devices. Besides, it is necessary to integrate more advanced features such as saving learning progress, classifying exercises by level and needing to enhance audio-visual resources (sound, images, videos). The specific suggestions from learners as above are an important basis for adjusting and upgrading the product in the next phase.

In short, the experimental results have reinforced the view that the website not only meets the needs of learning Vietnamese, but is also an effective tool for cultural education and developing language skills for learners in a digital educational environment.

4. PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION

The website Learning Vietnamese through cultural context is a creative digital pedagogical solution to expand the learning space for international students, support teaching Vietnamese outside the classroom, and at the same time enhance self-study capacity and the ability to apply language in practice. In addition, integrating cultural elements into lessons helps learners not only get acquainted with the language but also gradually approach to understand more and love, promote Vietnamese culture to international friends.

In terms of development orientation: The website can expand its learning materials according to levels: elementary - intermediate - advanced; Enhance personalization with a capacity assessment system and suggest suitable learning paths; Apply AI to Q&A activities, correct exercises on demand.

5. CONCLUSION

The topic “Building a website to support Vietnamese language teaching for international students at University of Education - Thai Nguyen University” has achieved its core goal of successfully designing a modern, user-friendly digital learning platform that integrates language and cultural content suitable for international students. Putting the website Learning Vietnamese through cultural context into use not only contributes to innovating Vietnamese language teaching methods in the university environment, but also opens up many opportunities for application and replication in Vietnamese language education as a foreign language on a national and international scale.

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