



USING ENGLISH TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MAJOR - VIA A CASE OF SOME VIETNAM NEWSPAPERS WITH THE  
UK, ITALIAN AND FRENCH APPROACHES and REGULATIONS ON  
PUBLISHING FAKE NEWS AND INTERNET CRIME

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**Abstract**

In recent years, many universities begin to use English to teach students in advanced programs, hence this study will present the using English as foreign language via a criminal case study of posting fake news of Thanhvien.vn and Tuoitre.vn (online newspapers) in Vietnam.

As their behaviors are considered to violate privacy laws, their untruth news online has caused many troubles, disorder and misleading community and society.

Authors also refer to ideas of President Ho Chi Minh to presents some ideologies on publishing activities for educating students in journalism, this study also make some suggestions from The UK, Italian and French regulations.

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**Key words:** English for teaching, fake news, internet crime, Thanh nien newspaper, Tuoi tre newspaper, case study

**JEL:** K10, K14, K15

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## 1. Introduction

For social sciences students, universities can use English to teach students in some course in advanced programs in developing countries.

In below section we will show roles of English in presenting case study of two Vietnam magazines on posting false information online:

Maintaining standards in publishing filed is important for editors , writers and those who work for journals and newspapers and magazines.

In Vietnam, From the beginning of 2020 until now, press agencies have faced many difficulties due to the Covid-19 epidemic situation. In addition to finding solutions to support press agencies to overcome difficulties, the Ministry of Information and Communications has determined the task of strengthening inspection and handling of errors in press activities in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency of state management performance cybercrime charges in the past two months. Of those, several were imprisoned for allegedly spreading on social media anti-state rumors and doctored photos of government leaders.

One lawmaker said the legislation, which also allows for social media and other websites to be blocked if found in violation of the law, is aimed at bolstering citizens' rights while also strengthening state information security.

(source: <https://www.poynter.org/ifcn/anti-misinformation-actions/>, access date 24/2/2022).

In Vietnam in recent years, many local newspapers published fake news and have been fined hundreds m VND, but still not afraid of these punishments (for example, the online case study we present at Thanh Nien newspaper at [thanhvien.vn](http://thanhvien.vn)).

### Research question:

Question 1: Present real cases studies of publishing fake news in Vietnam?

## 2. Literature review

First of all, In Belarus, On June 14, 2018, lawmakers passed controversial amendments to Belarus' media laws that allow the government to prosecute people who spread false information online.

Second, Ho Chi Minh stated that First of all, journalists must have a firm and steadfast stance, always sticking with cadres, soldiers and people; must constantly study, practice and improve their theoretical, political, professional and professional qualifications, and cultivate professional ethics in order to have

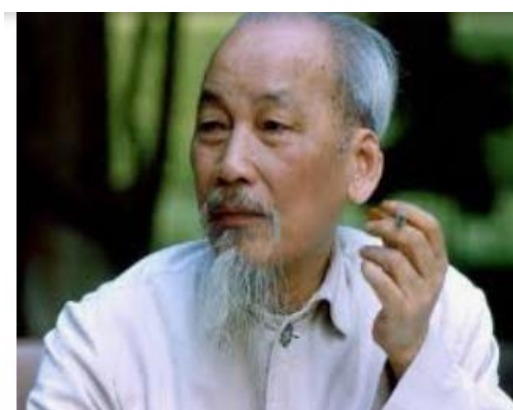
the capacity and experience to work in the best and most effective way. Journalists are socio-political activities, so the press's duty is to serve the revolution and the people, and journalists must be revolutionary soldiers on all fronts. Therefore, a firm political stance is the standard and top requirement for every journalist. Uncle asked journalists to "try to study politics, improve ideology, stand firmly on the position of the proletariat..." (source: Ho Chi Minh Complete Volume, Volume 10. National Politics Publishing House, H.2005, p.523).

At the 2nd Congress of Delegates, Vietnam Journalists Association on April 16, 1959, he said: "All journalists must take a firm political stance. Politics must be mastered, if the political direction is correct, then other things will be right. Therefore, our newspapers must have the right political line" (source: Ho Chi Minh Complete Volume, Volume 10. National Politics Publishing House, H.2005, p.415).

At the 3rd Congress of the Vietnam Journalists Association, he pointed out: "The task of the press is to serve the people, to serve the revolution. That is the task of the entire Party and people, as well as the task of our press".

(source: Ho Chi Minh Complete Volume, Volume 10. National Politics Publishing House, H.2005, p.613)

**Figure 1- President Ho Chi Minh**



(source: internet)

Then we summarize previous studies in below table:

**Table 1 - Related previous studies**

<b>Authors</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Content, results</b>
Aseegaf	2004	Article 2 of Law Number 40 Year 1999: "Press companies are required to publicly announce the name, address and person in charge through the media concerned, especially for press

		publishing plus the name and address of the printing company."
Ireton & Posetti	2018	it is a time for news media to tack more closely to professional standards and ethics, to eschew the publishing of unchecked information, and to take a distance from information which may interest some of the public but which is not in the public interest. This publication is therefore also a timely reminder that all news institutions, and journalists whatever their political leanings, should avoid inadvertently and uncritically spreading disinformation and misinformation. In much news media today, the elimination of positions providing internal fact checking has to an extent led to the function now being assumed by the "fifth estate" of bloggers and other external actors who call out mistakes made by journalists – though after they are already disseminated.
Tandoc et al	2017	An examination of 34 academic articles that used the term "fake news" between 2003 and 2017 resulted in a

		typology of types of fake news: news satire, news parody, fabrication, manipulation, advertising, and propaganda. These definitions are based on two dimensions: levels of facticity and deception.
Zimmer et al Newman et al	2019	Recent studies show that Facebook is one of the preferred sources of access to news, especially for the younger generation. However, Facebook and Twitter are responsible for the proliferation of fake news in the digital universe, increasing its exposure through the creation of segregated groups or recommendation algorithms.
Chiang, Wu & Yang	2019	The advancement and popularity of the Internet have enabled people to obtain and distribute news messages quickly and ubiquitously. People now use mobile phones and social media to obtain news messages.
Zimmer	2019	Although fake news has been present in human history at any time, nowadays, with social media, deceptive information has a stronger effect on society than before.

Arqoub et al	2020	television and Twitter were the platforms that received the greatest amount of scholarly attention. The articles focused on the United States more than any other country. Finally, “news,” “media,” and “fake” were the most regularly frequently occurring words.
Wang	2020	Fake news is an emerging field of research that attracts much attention from academic communities as well as mass media practitioners. However, the concept of fake news is still ambiguous, and the boundary between the definition of fake news and other relative concepts, such as news satire, yellow journalism, junk news, pseudo news, hoax news, propaganda news, advertorial, false information, fake information, misinformation, disinformation, mal-information, alternative fact, and post-truth is blurred.
Osho	2020	In narrative and argumentative form, the study concludes that anything fake

		or any information that is based on falsehood cannot be regarded as News.
Baptista & Gradim	2020	fake news explores all possible aspects to attract the reader's attention, from the formation of the title to the language used throughout the body of the text. The proliferation and success of fake news are associated with its characteristics (more surreal, exaggerated, impressive, emotional, persuasive, clickbait, shocking images), which seem to be strategically thought out and exploited by the creators of fake news. This review shows that fake news continues to be widely shared and consumed because that is the main objective of its creators. Although some studies do not support these correlations, it appears that conservatives, right-wing people, the elderly and less educated people are more likely to believe and spread fake news.
Pennycook & Rand	2021	There is also a large disconnect between what people believe and what they will share on social media, and this is largely driven by

		inattention rather than by purposeful sharing of misinformation.
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(source: author synthesis)

Finally, we will analyze that criminal behavior in publishing fake news can take place in many journals or newspapers that have connection together within a country and not only one newspaper/magazines but many of them will do publishing fake news online. For example, many newspapers in Vietnam have been fined for that in past years.

### 3. Methodology

Authors mainly use experiences, observations, practical situation with cases studies of publishing fake news, for example in Vietnam combined with qualitative analysis, synthesis and explanatory methods.

### 4. Main findings

For case study teaching method in English for students with social sciences major, we will present case students and discussion relevant topics as below:

#### 4.1 Case studies of publishing fake news in two Vietnam magazines

Historical time	History of violating
2009	The disciplinary case forced the resignation of Editor-in-Chief Le Hoang: Mr. Le Hoang was dismissed from his post of Editor-in-Chief and had to hand it over to his deputy from January 1, 2009 along with Mr. Nguyen Cong Khe, Editor-in-Chief of Thanh Nien newspaper. This event is partly related to and stems from mistakes in the reporting of PMU18, but it is also the "accumulation" of many previous and subsequent cases. This is the fourth Editor-in-Chief to leave Tuoi Tre and the third Editor-in-Chief of Tuoi Tre to resign while in office for disciplinary reasons. Those who were not disciplined were Mr. Vo Nhu Lanh and Tang Huu Phong. (source: <a href="https://tieng.wiki/content/Tu%E1%BB%95i%20Tr%E1%BA%BB%20(b%C3%A1o)">https://tieng.wiki/content/Tu%E1%BB%95i%20Tr%E1%BA%BB%20(b%C3%A1o)</a> , access date 6/3/2022).
2020	Ministry of Information and Communications has just issued Decision No. 175/QD-XPVPHC sanctioning administrative violations of Thanh Nien



	Newspaper with a fine of 45 million VND because false information causes very serious impacts reflecting on a number of construction investment projects in Hai Phong City
2021-beginning 2022	Thanh nien newspaper (Thanhvien.vn) and Tuoitre.vn and bad editor team Nguyen Ngoc Toan/Dang Thi Phuong Thao still publish false information online causing troubles and disorder in Vietnam society

(source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/vn/thoi-su/bao-thanh-nien-bi-phat-45-trieu-dong-va-phai-cai-chinh-xin-loi-672693.html>, access date 24/2/2022).

Next, we will present many legal lessons for students in journalism field.

#### 4.2 Educating students in journalism and publishing

First, students need to understand internet crimes including not only publishing fake news, but also hackers, cybersecurity attacks.

Second, students need to learn ideologies of President Ho Chi Minh in revolutionary roles of journals and newspapers and publishing:

Thought, morality, style, and style are a whole, creating Ho Chi Minh's exemplary personality. With the press, Uncle Ho is both a leader and a journalist, so he understands very well the role and propaganda effect of the press. Therefore, his thoughts and views on journalism and journalism have become the basic orientation for the development of Vietnam's revolutionary journalism.

General Secretary Truong Chinh once affirmed: "President Ho Chi Minh is a revolutionary journalist, a great teacher, founder and mentor of Vietnam's revolutionary journalism. Uncle Ho's whole life of revolutionary activities was associated with journalism work. Therefore, Uncle Ho considers himself a person with many predestined relationships with the press, and his teachings on journalism are an invaluable treasure of Vietnamese revolutionary journalism theory, clearly demonstrating the Our Party's proletarian press is etched in the minds of our journalists."

At the Second Congress of the Vietnam Journalists Association (April 16, 1959), President Ho Chi Minh warned journalists: "All journalists must take a firm political stance. Politics must be mastered. If the political direction is right, then other things will be right."

(source: <https://kinhtedothi.vn/tu-tuong-cua-chu-tich-ho-chi-minh-ve-lam-bao-viet-bao-bai-hoc-sau-sac-cho-nguoi-lam-bao.html>, access date 6/3/2022).

**Figure 2 - Ho Chi Minh and publishing activities**



(source: internet)

In addition, Writing about the enemy, President Ho Chi Minh often used a satirical style, but with deep, sharp, strange intelligence; Office has both journalistic nature and literary art. Writing for the masses, the user uses simple language, applies many idioms and proverbs of the nation, expressing them according to the way of speaking, thinking and feeling of the masses.

(source: <http://huyenuy.namtrammy.quangnam.gov.vn/>, access date 24/2/2022).

#### **4.3 The UK, Italian and French approaches and laws on publishing fake news and internet crime**

First, Online, Italians were more likely to get their news from 'algorithmic sources' — search engines and social networks, used for news by more than half of those surveyed — than editorial sources such as digital news sites, which were used by 39 percent. Facebook was the favourite social media platform, used as a news source by almost one in three Italians, followed by Instagram, which was used for news by six percent of Italians, slightly more than Twitter.

2017 was “the year of the emergence of pathological phenomena such as the so-called 'fake news’” in Italy.

However, social media and search engines were less trusted by consumers, with only 24 percent saying social networks were 'reliable' or 'very reliable' sources of information.

(source: <https://www.thelocal.it/20180220/fake-news-spread-italy-agcom-election/>, access date 6/3/2022).

Second, Mastroianni (2019) stated that Using Silvio Berlusconi's successful campaign for Italy's President of the Council of Ministers as a case study, this article deals with control and use of media powers to gain and maintain political consensus. Since the case study of this article reveals a strong connection between effective contrast to 'fake news ' and the existence of a media legal landscape based on the principles of impartiality, transparency and pluralism, it is submitted that the adoption of uniform European rules could significantly limit the impact of false or misleading information pending electoral periods.

Third, in Italy, Article 7 of Consolidated Law on Audiovisual and Radio Media Services ("CLARMS") provides that information programs must be, among other things, truthful and open to all political actors. This provision was implemented by an AGCom Decision, which sets out the rules for equal access to information programs during non-electoral periods.

(source: Decreto Legislativo 31 luglio 2005, n.177, G.U. Sept. 7, 2005, n.208 (It.), as amended by Decreto Legislativo 15 marzo 2010, n.44, G.U. Mar. 29, 2010 n.73).

Fourth, Smith (2019) mentioned that The United Kingdom is currently examining far-reaching regulatory proposals designed to address the online transmission of harmful content, including disinformation. Of particular interest, therefore, is French Law no. 2018–1202 on the ‘fight against the manipulation of information’. The French Law establishes a fast-track civil procedure to tackle the transmission of false information prior to key elections and referenda; addresses foreign state-funded broadcast propaganda; and seeks to enhance transparency regarding the financing and distribution of online content. Restrictions on the transmission of information, particularly in the run-up to elections, are inherently suspect and the Conseil constitutionnel carefully reviewed the French proposals to ensure that any constraints on freedom of expression were both justified and necessary. French Law 2018–1202 thus offers an example of a rather ‘muscular’ form of intervention in the election field, but one which seeks to preserve democratic legitimacy without undermining the individual freedoms on which it rests.

Next, students can discuss below case questions:

Question 1: Summary Vietnam magazines case study above

Question 2: Present recommendations for dealing with fake news in journalism?

## **5. Discussion and Conclusion**

Based on above approaches, teachers can use English as foreign language to teach students in social sciences and esp., journalism major.

President Ho Chi Minh also affirmed: Journalists must be soldiers on the press front, must exercise political courage in association with professional skills training, that is the responsibility of revolutionary journalists. Vietnam. In order to complete the task of being that glorious revolutionary soldier, he asked journalists to constantly study and improve their level in all aspects, especially the political level; at the same time, they must immerse themselves in the people's life in order to write in accordance with their moods, needs and aspirations. Uncle advises journalists: "If you write a newspaper that the public understands, the people love to read, and the people praise it well, then you've made progress. On the contrary, you haven't been successful."

Up to now, President Ho Chi Minh's views on the functions, tasks and nature of the revolutionary press; on the roles, obligations and ethics of journalists; about art in "writing" to create a valuable journalistic

work and newspaper, always remaining valuable. These ideas are being applied creatively and flexibly by each press agency.

(source: <https://kinhtedothi.vn/tu-tuong-cua-chu-tich-ho-chi-minh-ve-lam-bao-viet-bao-bai-hoc-sau-sac-cho-nguoi-lam-bao.html>, access date 6/3/2022).

### **Implications for applying case teaching methods with using English as foreign language for social sciences students:**

Using case study method as suggested above can create more discussion and teamwork activities for students with social sciences major, and we need to improve English skills for students with following conditions:

### **Objectives, motivations and attitudes of English learners**

#### **Goals**

Why put this issue first?

In fact, when we do anything, in order to be successful, we must clearly define our goals. Because simply, the goal is a measure of success, when we achieve our goal, we say we have succeeded.

The same goes for learning English, if we only define learning English as an obligation, learning because many people say it's important, learning to pass the subject, through English courses, in fact, that's the same thing. has a learning purpose, but is such a purpose suitable for university students, young and dynamic people? Definitely not yet.

Students are subjects with very good cognitive ability, so we need a higher goal, a bigger ambition. Learn about international English certifications and set yourself specific, clear and important goals that must help us achieve other goals in life.

About learning attitude.

- Be an inquisitive person, don't hide things you don't know, ask your teachers and friends if you can't find out by yourself.
- Be confident and think that you can not only learn, but also learn a foreign language very well. Confidence is very important in communication, especially when speaking English, only when we are not afraid to be wrong, not afraid of others' ridicule, can we speak fluently, and speak correctly according to our speaking style. native speakers.
- Do not give up, find satisfactory solutions to all doubtful problems.
- Must be an active student if taking classes, or a strict self if you study on your own.

### **Research limitation**

Authors need to make analysis for other legal case studies as well as for other markets.

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