



HCMC Department of Education and Training
Natural Science and English Training Center

BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN VIETNAM SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES

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Outline

Bilingual Education in Vietnam

Successes

Challenges – on the school side

Challenges – on the student side

Challenges – on the teacher side

Teacher Training at NSETC

Future Directions



Bilingual Education in Vietnam

- ❖ Traditionally, schools in Vietnam (from elementary school to graduate school) use Vietnamese. English is an obligatory subject since grade 6.
- ❖ Since the 2000s, some universities started using English as major language in their courses. English is an obligatory subject since grade 3.
- ❖ Recently, some high schools started teaching subjects in English as supplement to regular classes.



Successes

- ❖ Proficiency in English is becoming a must for the young generation of Vietnam
- ❖ More and more students study for international exams (TOEFL, TOEIC, SAT, GRE, GMAT, ...)
- ❖ More and more students want to prepare themselves for studying abroad



Challenges – on the school side

❖ **Selecting a curriculum**

- ❖ Which textbook to use?
- ❖ Which qualifications to follow?

❖ **Finding qualified teachers**

- ❖ Subject teachers are usually not good at English
- ❖ English teachers cannot teach science subjects

❖ **Policy for teachers**

- ❖ in training
- ❖ in teaching



Challenges – on the student side

❖ **Vietnamese curriculum**

- ❖ Students have to fulfill the Vietnamese curriculum besides their bilingual classes

❖ **Insufficient English proficiency**

- ❖ Studying a subject in Vietnamese is itself difficult, studying it in English is even more challenging

❖ **Lack of information**

- ❖ Most students do not know much about standardized exams so do not have specific goals for their bilingual study



Challenges – on the teacher side

❖ **Regular school work**

- ❖ Teachers have to fulfill their regular school works

❖ **Lack of official training**

- ❖ No professional development or official training courses for subject teachers to teach in English

❖ **Lack of desire for change**

- ❖ studying a foreign language is a real challenge
- ❖ most subject teachers do not think English is necessary for their job



Teacher Training at NSETC

❖ **Goals**

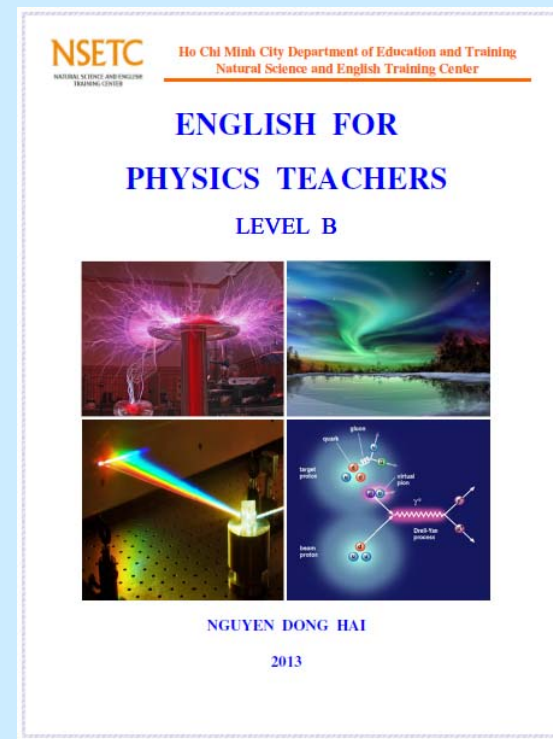
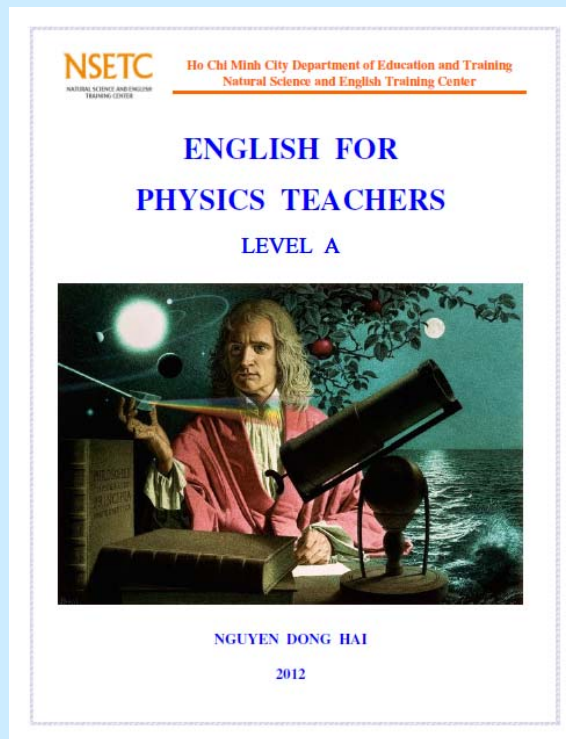
- ❖ Train pre-service and in-service subject teachers to teach their subjects in English
- ❖ Improve English proficiency of teachers and scientists

❖ **Courses available**

- ❖ English for Mathematics Teachers
- ❖ English for Physics Teachers
- ❖ English for Chemistry Teachers
- ❖ English for Biology Teachers

Teacher Training at NSETC

❖ Curricula and Textbooks: by NSETC teachers





Teacher Training at NSETC

❖ Approach

- ❖ Learn English through the medium of subjects

❖ Length of courses

- ❖ 9 months, 6 hours/week (total 216 hours of class work)

❖ Teaching staff

- ❖ Vietnamese content specialists (M.S., PhD.) graduating from foreign countries
- ❖ Native English teachers and content specialists



Teacher Training at NSETC

❖ **Course content**

- ❖ subject-specific vocabulary
- ❖ reading and listening comprehension
- ❖ lesson plan preparation
- ❖ classroom language
- ❖ teaching methodology
- ❖ practice teaching
- ❖ teaching for IGCSE, A-level, and SAT exams



Future Directions

- ❖ Policy must go ahead of any change
- ❖ Develop intensive courses and/or professional development workshops led by content specialists to train teachers to teach their subjects in English
- ❖ Students should be more aware of the paths in bilingual education that best fit their ability and desire



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THANK YOU
for your attention