Foreword

Dear readers.

I would like to share a few words about the making of this modest website..

Why with Article 1: Vietnamese Quick-Writing (VQW)?

Back in 1976, I chanced to borrow a library's book by the title "Vấn đề cải tiến chữ quốc ngữ"^{(1).} Leafing over its table of contents, I got much surprised, because in my then knowledge, with the language's established and supposedly perfect writing system, why these scholars need such a seminar⁽²⁾ on the system at all, really puzzled me. The book in fact pointed out a great many inadequacies in the Vietnamese writing, and presented several suggestions for improvements and rationalization, which had been available by that time.

Finishing the book, I realized that the "national characters" system did have its imperfections. I then pondered if there were some ways to get it rationalized and more streamlined? I have finally come up with a 52syllable quick-writing method that reduces 4- or 3-character syllables down to just 2-character ones.

In recent times, more and more Vietnamese have gone online and start chatting or simply texting on a hand phone. Traditional writing system causes them a lot of trouble when keying in long syllables of 3 or 4 characters. This "difficulty" prompted me to devise this "*Vietnamese Quick-Writing*" to reduce many a syllable into its simple 2-character substitute. That was the starting point of my first article "*Vietnamese Quick-Writing*" 2 years ago.

Why with Article 2: New method of Vietnamese Quick-Typing ? I have posted "VQW" on quite a few forums home and abroad, one of which being WinVNKey's (winvnkey.sf.net).

Dr Ngô Đình Học, author of the multipurpose WinVNKey, has integrated my VQW into WinVNKey, creating a new option for Vietnamese Quick-Typing, i.e. you key in your text in VQW and get the full traditional writing on screen. The article *"New method of Vietnamese Quick-Typing"* should provide a practical guide for this useful shorthand.

Why with Article 3: Quickest Vietnamese Typing-method ?

In trying different options to integrate the Quick Vietnamese Writing's proposed suggestion into WinVNKey, a question now arose: which accent typing method would be the quickest and best suited?

The article on "*Quickest Vietnamese Typing-method*" provide a brief analysis of the strengths and weaknesses the 4 popular accent typing methods: VIQR, VNI, Telex và Microsoft. New one method, Tubinhtran-MS, is also introduced. This new typing method has been integrated into WinVNKey, version 5.5.463.

Why with Article 4: No-accent⁽³⁾ Vietnamese Quick-Typing?

To improve the speed of no-accent texting, a new method has been integrated in WinVNKey, which uses macros (without accent) to help reproduce full no-accent Vietnamese words. The article *"No-accent Vietnamese Quick-Typing"* will present thoroughly this quick, handy method.

Why with Article 5: Express Manual for WinVNKey ?

WinVNKey is a multi-purpose keyboard with various useful functions for which not many other keyboards support.

On WinVNKey's home page, the reader can find its User Guide at "Online Manual". These instructions are written in English and designed to address advanced users who have interests in more in-depth features.

With Dr Ngô Đình Học's approval, I have compiled the article *"Express Manual for WinVNKey"* at a more user-oriented standpoint helping Vietnamese layman users learn to download the application and familiarize themselves with its basic and useful features.

Readers can gather from the above writings, that the first article, **Vietnamese Quick-Writing** has all the core elements of this new texting shorthand, a good memorization of which should enable them to understand and utilize all features integrated in WinVNKey.

At the end of our Vietnamese Quick-Writing web page (Chữ Việt Nhanh), there are further articles on the following subjects:

- Multi-purpose keyboard WinVNKey.
- Vietnamese writing's rationalization.
- Vietnamese-writing in @-era.
- Small tips.
- Spelling of Vietnamese writing.

We also provide hyperlinks leading to pages where interested readers can practice right online, such as Vietnamese-Texting Online ("Gõ chữ Việt trên mạng"), Online Dictionaries, Online Translation, Learning Vietnamese Online, etc..

Thank you, readers, for your kind interest. Your feedback and corrections will be much appreciated.

Sydney, November, 2008. © Trần Tư Bình Web: **Chữ Việt Nhanh** chuvietnhanh.sf.net Email: tubinhtran@gmail.com

(1) "*The Issue of Rationalizing the Vietnamese Writing System*", Van Hoa Publisher, Ha Noi, 1961.

(2) by the Literature Institute in Hanoi, in 1960.

(3) i.e. "without diacritical marks".