

Logico-Semantic Relation of Expansion in Vietnamese Clause Complexes: A Systemic Functional Description

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Abstract: This paper attempts to describe the logico-semantic relation of expansion in Vietnamese clause complexes in the light of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). SFL was employed as the theoretical framework to describe the Vietnamese grammar in such works by Hoàng Văn Vân [1] and Thái Minh Đức [2] at University of Macquarie, Australia. In the last ten years, several SFL empirical studies have also tried to uncover some certain parts of the Vietnamese grammar in comparison with the English grammar. This paper is the report on the methodology and the findings of an investigation on the logico-semantic relation of expansion in Vietnamese clause complexes with the analytical framework modified from Halliday's [3].

Keywords: SFL, clause complex, logico-semantic relations, expansion, elaboration, extension, enhancement.

1. Introduction

Over the years, functional approach has had a significant impact on the study of grammar. This theoretical approach tries to incorporate meaning, function, context, and grammatical categories. Functionalism has been developed by many functional grammarians like Dik [4], Halliday [5], [3], Bloor [6], Eggins [7], Thompson [8], Lock [9], Martin [10], van Valin and LaPolla [11], Matthiessen [12], and many others. Since 1980, SFL has been expanded considerably in various directions; further

studies have been devoted to languages other than English, notably Chinese, French, Indonesian, Japanese and some other Asian and African languages, but it has not been of much popular use in Vietnam studies of grammar. In the Vietnamese language, the first functional studies that should be counted are by Cao Xuân Hạo [13], Hoàng Văn Vân [1], Thái Minh Đức [2], Đỗ Tuấn Minh [14], Đỗ Kim Phương [15]. These studies on the Vietnamese grammar using the same theoretical framework were on the systems of transitivity, clauses, and thematic structures, leaving the area of clause combination an untouched topic. A description of logico-semantic relations in Vietnamese clause complexes is therefore chosen to be the

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research topic for this study, hoping to contribute a tiny part among the first attempts to bring the contemporarily not widely applicable theoretical perspective which has not yet been highlighted much in Vietnamese grammar studies.

2. SFL overview

Since human beings began to be curious about the languages they spoke and started examining them, linguistics has been developed through many periods of time with different approaches including the early description of grammar in Greece and India, traditional grammar, universal grammar, historical linguistics, general linguistics, anthropological linguistics, structuralism and functionalism, a human-centered approach in the light of which linguists try to determine what purposes are being served by languages, and what linguistic forms are available to serve those functions. The emergence of functional approach is the milestone in the development of linguistics, with its separation into two trends: formalism and functionalism.

The basic difference between functionalist and formalist linguistic frameworks is in where explanations are lodged, and what counts as an explanation. Formal linguistics generates explanations out of structure so that a structural category or relation, such as command or subjacency [16] can legitimately count as an explanation for certain facts about various syntactic structures and constructions. Functionalists, in contrast, find explanations in function. They see language as a tool, or, better, a set of tools, whose forms are adapted to their functions, and thus, can be explained only in terms of those functions.

Since functionalists assume a broader notion of language than formal theories, the extent of linguistic investigation is correspondingly wider. Language function is often more important than language structure. Different functional theories represent a great range of theoretical opinion, and by listing them together no claim is made that they are in agreement on all major issues. What they have in common is basically a rejection of the syntactocentric view of formalists and a recognition of the importance of the communicative factors, cognitive factors or both in grammatical theory and analysis. Different functional theories can be placed along a continuum according to their reduction of grammatical structure to discourse. Nichols [17] distinguishes three groups of functionalism: extreme, moderate and conservative.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) belongs to the moderate group, and is defined by Firth [18] to be the theoretical representation of paradigmatic relations, contrasted with “structure” for syntagmatic relations. In this theory, the system takes priority, and the most abstract representation at any level is in paradigmatic terms.

3. Logico-semantic relations in clause complexes in the view of SFL

Halliday [3] defines the clause complex as the representation of the flow of events in the world as sequence of quanta of changes. Theoretically, the logical function enables a clause complex to “go on” linearly as much as the speaker wants, even cross-turn in conversation as the speakers can still keep the thread of logic between clauses across turns and the listeners can trace the link of the suspended

chunk of the clause complex thanks to the logico-semantic relations between them. In clause complexes, different processes are chained in a meaningful way. All complexes are structured as **series** of related elements: each relation represents a new expansion of the complex. The complexes are developed link by link; each pair of linked elements is called a **nexus** [3]. The nature of these links is determined by *taxis* and **logico-semantic relation** which concerns with the logic of the relation forming the nexus: expansion or projection, and the option of stopping or expanding the complex further by opening up another nexus through systemic: stop or go on.

The system of logico-semantic relationship specifies what its name suggests: the particular kind of logical interconnection. This is, of course, the ultimate source of logic in its formal and symbolic sense; but since such systems of logic are derived from natural languages, not the other way round, it is not very profitable to try and interpret natural-language logic as an imperfect copy of a logic that has been designed. The basic distinction in the logical-semantic relationship in clause complexes, is between the two types: **expansion** and **projection**, which function in very different ways. Both these types of relationship can be construed between equal and unequal clauses. The table below shows various possibilities.

Table 1. The Logico-semantic Relations

	Expanding	Projecting
Paratactic	<i>Lectures are in the morning, office hours are in the afternoon.</i> <i>Sáng đi, tối về.</i>	<i>I said:</i> “ <i>Well, I love the games.</i> ” <i>Họ cam kết:</i> “ <i>Chúng tôi đảm bảo tiến độ.</i> ”
Hypotactic	<i>If you start trouble, we’ll finish it.</i> <i>Khi nào tiện tôi sẽ ghé.</i>	<i>We believe that he will accept.</i> <i>Tôi cho là không cần thay đổi đâu.</i>

The relationships of projection and expansion are different in that projection is an essential part of the meaning of the projected clause and therefore, the meaning of the projected clause will change radically if the projection is taken away, whereas typically an expanded clause would not change its meaning radically if the expansion were taken away. Therefore, expansion is a macrophenomenon and projection is a metaphenomenon.

The system of expansion allows us to develop on the experiential meanings of a clause in three main ways: through the elaboration, extension and enhancement of its

meaning. In clauses combining through the process elaboration, one clause expands another by elaborating on it in greater detail, by exemplifying it, or by clarifying it in other words. In clauses combining through the process of extension, one clause expands another by adding something new, or giving an alternative or an exception. In clauses combining through the process of enhancement, clauses of time, place, condition, purpose, cause or concession expand the primary clause by contributing these circumstantial features [3].

4. The study

4.1. The research design

The study is designed as a descriptive study conducted in the methodology of a corpus-based linguistic study.

4.2. Methods of the study

To conduct this study, the following methods are used: (i) the corpus method is for data collection and processing, done with the assistance of SysFan as a computational tool for the annotation, abstraction, and analysis of data; (ii) the descriptive method is for describing the processed data and interpreting the analyzed data.

4.3. Corpus compilation

The specialized corpus: The corpus of the study is specialized in that it consists of only the written corpus, and it samples only clause complexes found from 10 types of magazines written in Vietnamese. The decision for the corpus to be specialized this way is for the sake of survival from the constraints on corpus building, especially the constraints on copyright and availability.

The sources of the corpus: As the balance and representativeness of the corpus is achieved through the variation of the text types, the sources of the data are chosen to be from 10 major types of magazines written in Vietnamese with the hope of covering all areas of language use. The magazines in each type are well-defined and selected with the exact names so that no overlap of the names actually happens at all.

The magazines selected are all big names in each area, and are chosen to be from 2008 up to now. Only one article in each magazine is

randomly taken into the corpus in order to vary the sources of data. All the efforts mentioned are meaningful in that the best possible representativeness can be assured. Clause complexes are picked out from all parts of the articles: the introduction, the body, and the conclusion. The longer the articles are, the more clause complexes can be taken from them; the fewer articles and magazines, accordingly, are used. The total number of magazines used in this study is 135.

The size of the corpus: The total length of the 135 articles which is around 300,000 words is viewed as neither too small nor too large. This length is manageable for the researcher in her investigation of the logico-semantic relation of expansion in clauses.

4.4. Corpus annotation and data processing

4.4.1. The computational tool

As this study deals with clause complexes analysis, the most appropriate computational tool to assist in processing data is, therefore, SysFan by Matthiessen and Wu [19]. SysFan, which is a software for SFL corpus-based studies, can be used to process large volumes of text to produce theme, mood, and transitivity analyses, and the systemic functional analyses of other grammatical units including clause complexes. The text analysis in SysFan mirrors the organization of the whole linguistic system, allowing text analysis to take place at any rank and at any stratum. Within the lexicogrammatical stratum, the analysis starts from clause complexes analysis and can move all the way down to specific word and SysFan does reduce much work in processing the corpus. The exploitation of SysFan in this study is specified as follows:

(i) Annotating constituent clauses in clause complexes according to their logical dependency relationships into paratactic and hypotactic clause complexes;

(ii) Annotating constituent clauses in clause complexes according to their logico-semantic relations into expansion with 3 subtypes and projection with 2 subtypes;

(iii) Sorting out the clause complexes of expansion and number of constituent clauses for close observation of the distributions and patterns of relation;

(iv) Counting the number of clauses in each clause complexes, and counting words with frequencies and associations to provide a general overview of the distribution of logico-semantic relations in clause complexes in real language use;

(v) Converting the numbers into charts for easy descriptive analysis.

4.4.2. The process of annotating and processing the data

With 200 clause complexes randomly collected from each type of magazines, the data

for annotation and analysis consists of 2000 clause complexes. Since the clause complexes are grouped according to 10 types of magazines, there are 10 groups of clause complexes coded with unique IDs as follows:

- (i) Natural sciences: 201
- (ii) Healthcare and medicine: 202
- (iii) Law: 203
- (iv) Economics, Banking, and Finance: 204
- (v) Social Sciences: 205
- (vi) ICT: 206
- (vii) Art and the Mass Media: 207
- (viii) Policies and Political Affairs: 208
- (ix) Sports and Entertainment: 209
- (x) Linguistics and Literature: 210

In the annotation process, the clause complexes are chunked into constituent clauses, then SysFan creates the records of clause complexes, and then each clause is automatically assigned with an ID with reference to the group ID as seen in Fig. 1 below:

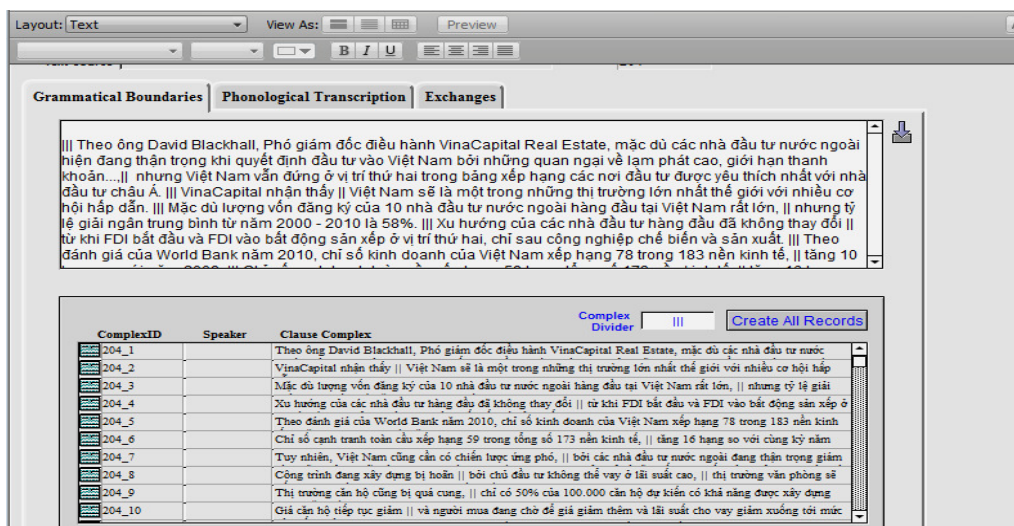


Fig. 1. Chunking a group into clause complexes.

The more delicate chunking of clause complexes into clauses is done by clicking the image on the left of the ID of each clause complex. Once the image on the left of a clause

complex ID is clicked, that clause complex will be separated into a new window, showing the clause complex in the main text window and the element clauses in the analysis. (cf. Fig. 2)

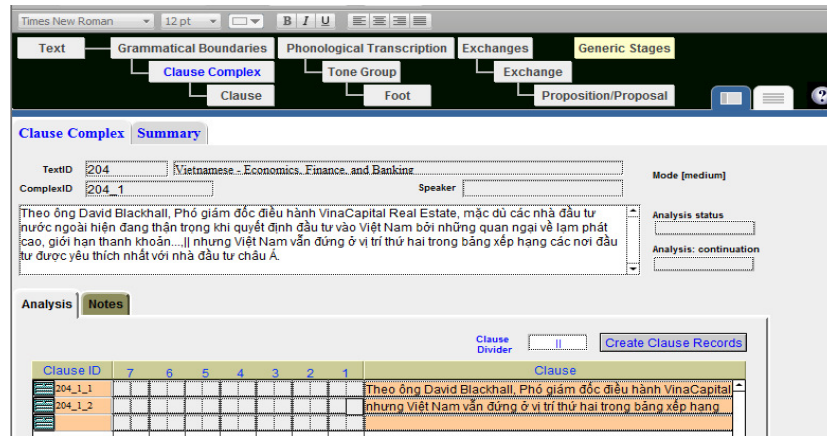


Fig. 2. Chunking a clause complex into clauses.

When the clause complexes are chunked into element clauses, the element clauses are also automatically assigned with IDs and can be analyzed into 7 possible levels of dependency

between clauses. The clauses are then furthered analyzed and annotated with the built-in coding system. The process of labeling the element clauses of the clause complexes is as in Fig.3 below

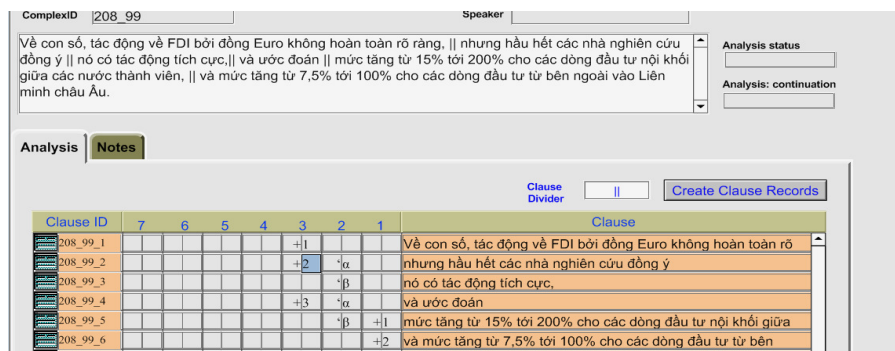


Fig. 3. Labeling the clauses in data processing [19].

The results of data processing are stored in the database for searching and sorting. It can also be extracted into excel-formatted files for quick and accurate sorting and searching in use. The functions of quickly and accurately sorting and searching for the type of data needed of these excel-formatted files are of great exploitation in the sense that they assist the

researcher in classifying, locating, and extracting the data needed for observations of patterns and trenches.

4.5. Data analysis

The analytical framework used in this study's data analysis is modified from

Halliday's framework of expansion [3], which goes into the three modes of elaboration, extension, and enhancement, with the details added along the way of description. The aim of this modification is to make the analytical framework less delicate and less Anglo-centric but more applicable to the description of the Vietnamese language. In other words, in the modified analytical framework, the researcher reorganizes the constituents in Halliday's framework [3] and adapts it in a more comprehensive way to the Vietnamese language. The details of the modified analytical framework are as follows:

The framework of expansion in clause complexes is restructured to be divided into two big parts: the realization of expansion in clause complexes and the operation of expansion in clause complexes. The realization of expansion is specified through the constituent clauses of the clause complexes of expansion: the expanding clause and the expanded clause, conjunctions – the devices for combining the constituent clauses, and the paratactic and hypotactic combination of the constituent clauses. The operation of expansion is seen through the way the three sub-relations of elaboration, extension, and expansion work in clause complexes.

The analytical framework is simplified down to, hopefully and ideally, only the universal concepts so that it can work in any language.

5. Findings and discussions

5.1 General findings

- As the study is corpus-based, not corpus-driven, the data from the corpora are mainly

used for demonstrating the existence of certain linguistic features, the numbers and proportions do not significantly attribute to the evaluation of the data and the justification of the arguments. However, with the size of 300,000 words, covering 10 different text styles, the quantitative data in the corpora can still exhibit some general trends:

- The average number of clauses in each clause complex in the Vietnamese corpora is nearly 3, which informs that in natural language use, a clause complex often consists of more than one clause nexus, thus a clause complex can be the combination of different logico-semantic relations. Therefore, it is not always correct to name a clause complex with one and only one name of logico-semantic relations, like a clause complex of expansion or a clause complex of projection, as there can be both projection and expansion (probably with their subtypes) in one and the same clause complex. Consequently, when the term “the clause complex of expansion/ projection” is used hereafter, what is actually meant is the clause nexus of expansion/ projection in the clause complex.

- Though the corpora of the study are collected from magazines – the written version of language, it is not true they cannot reflect the spoken language because many parts of the corpora are the written records of the spoken language, for example, the quoted forms of someone's utterances. An utterance can be varied in forms; i.e. it can be a word, a group of words, a clause (sentence), or a series of clauses (sentences), a clause complex in the corpora; accordingly, it may sometimes consist of two or more logically connected sentences, either complete or shortened, providing that all those sentences are nested in one and the same recorded utterance. Punctuations do not always decide the borders of the complexes.

- As regards the proportions of taxis relations in the clauses, the hypotaxis nexuses, in most text styles, are fewer than the parataxis nexuses, with the proportions of 42.38 % and 57.62% respectively. These trends appear to illustrate the Vietnamese preferences in combining clauses using coordination.

- As regards the relative distribution of logico-semantic relations in the clause complexes, in Vietnamese, the general trend is that the relation of expansion with its subtypes is employed almost four times as frequent as the relation of projection (78.94 of expansion vs. 21.06% of projection). Expansion is most found in Social Science texts.

- In clause complexes of expansion, the sub-relation distribution is the clear evidence of how it works in Vietnamese clause complexes. In Vietnamese clause complexes, extension is most exploited in combining constituent clauses (48.46%). As regards taxis distribution, the sub-relation of elaboration works more in Vietnamese paratactic clause complexes (56.20%) than in hypotactic clause complexes (43.80%). Additionally, almost all clause complexes of extension are paratactic; almost all clause complexes of enhancement are hypotactic.

5.2. The detail description of logico-semantic relations in Vietnamese clause complexes

Using the modified analytical frameworks presented, the logico-semantic relations in Vietnamese clause complexes are, for the first time, fully described as follows.

5.2.1. Realization of expansion in Vietnamese clause complexes

- The expanding clause in Vietnamese clause complexes can function as either an apposition, or an explication, or an

accompaniment, or an attribute of circumstantial features of the expanded clause. The expanding clause can be in initial, middle, and final position; and the position of the expanding clause has no effect on the structure of the clause.

Nếu vẫn không được, || **bạn có thể buộc phải hạ cấp xuống phiên bản iOS cũ hơn**, || *điều này có nghĩa là mất đi các tính năng mới hơn.* (206_26) (*function: apposition of the whole expanded clause; position: final*)

Sáu ống nứa ở khèn được chia làm **hai lớp**: || *trên bốn*, || *dưới hai.* (207_83) (*function: explication of a part of the expanded clause; position: final*)

Việc đạt được thành tích ở trong nước đã không dễ dàng gì, || *nhưng khi đã mang chuông đi đánh xứ người, nhất là đấu trường Olympic* || thì phải đầu tư nghiêm túc hơn. (209_24) (*function: enhancement; position: middle*)

Tương tự như vậy, dù được cho là nhẹ nhàng hơn các phiên bản trước đó || nhưng thời gian tải trang web là lâu hơn so với Firefox và Opera. (206_91) (*function: extension; position: initial*)

- The expanded clause, the whole or a part of it, functions as either the domain for the expansion process or the antecedent of a relative clause. In clause complexes with more than one clause nexus, the expanded clause can have different functions. The expanded clause is always the primary clause or a free clause and can be of any clause moods, but its end-of-clause punctuation mark is clipped away when followed by the expanding clause.

Thế nhưng, *hôm qua tâm trạng mọi người rất khác*, || bởi chiến tích của Thanh Phúc quá tự hào. (209_1) (**declarative mood**)

Tại sao tình trạng làm giá, tin đồn, đội lái... lại phát tác rộng rãi trong năm 2010, || đó là bởi thị trường chứng khoán vẫn còn thiếu minh

bạch và thiếu chế tài cho sự minh bạch. (203_5)
(*interrogative mood, “?” clipped*)

- Conjunctions to connect the constituent clauses can be either structural conjunctions (adjacency and punctuations in paratactic complex and adjacency, punctuations, and essentially, the ellipsis of subject in the dependent clause in the hypotactic complex) or lexical conjunctions, which can be structurally, tactically, and functionally classified.

- In Vietnamese paratactic clause complexes of expansion, the constituent clauses are equal in status, but they are still classified as primary and secondary based on the clause sequence in the complex. The markers for paratactic relation are structural linking, paratactic conjunctions, and punctuation. The use of conjunctions for parataxis in Vietnamese clause complexes is quite loose and vague.

- In Vietnamese hypotactic clause complexes of expansion, the clauses are unequal. The secondary clause is marked as dependent by the use of hypotactic conjunctions or subject ellipsis. The markers of hypotactic relation include structural binding, hypotactic conjunctions, and punctuation. The exploitation of punctuations in Vietnamese hypotactic clause complexes is also not very consistent and systematic.

- As regards conjunctions, the most common are conjunctions for elaboration: đó là, tức là, nghĩa là, nói cách khác (là), cụ thể (là), ví dụ (là), etc.; also common are relative expressions: người (mà), nơi (mà), lúc (mà), khi (mà), người nào, khi nào, lúc nào, cái nào, trong đó, ở đó, lúc đó, etc., which are used in hypotactic clause complexes only.

Conjunctions for marking the logico-semantic relation of extension in paratactic clause complexes and hypotactic clause complexes are not clearly distinguished; in fact,

the same conjunctions are used for both kinds of taxis. The most common conjunctions for extensions are (i) simple conjunctions: và, rồi, còn, hoặc, song, ngoài, trừ, đồng thời, thêm nữa, trừ phi, etc.; (ii) correlative structures: không những... mà còn..., một đằng... đằng khác..., nào... ấy..., bao nhiêu... bấy nhiêu..., nào là... nào là..., khi thì... lúc thì..., chỗ này... chỗ khác..., thứ nhất... thứ hai..., hoặc... hoặc..., etc.; (iii) conjunction groups: trái lại, không những thế, etc.; (iv) complex conjunctions: một khả năng khác là, cộng thêm, thêm vào đó, etc. Among the conjunctions, correlative structures are very popular and can be considered typical kind of conjunctions for extension in Vietnamese.

Conjunctions for addition can be further divided according to the specific function of extension into (i) conjunctions for positive addition: và, rồi, cũng, hơn nữa, không những thế, không những... mà còn..., nào... ấy..., bao nhiêu... bấy nhiêu..., nào là... nào là..., thứ nhất... thứ hai..., một là... hai là..., etc.; and (ii) conjunctions for adversative addition: nhưng, còn, tuy nhiên, lại, một đằng thì... đằng khác... lại..., khi thì... lúc thì..., chỗ này... chỗ khác..., etc. For negative addition, in Vietnamese, there are no specific conjunctions to demonstrate this logico-semantic function. To realize this function in Vietnamese clause complexes of elaboration, it is common that the positive conjunctions are used in company with the negation of the processes in the constituent clauses.

Among the most popular Vietnamese conjunctions for enhancement are:

(i) Conjunctions of time: khi, lúc, một khi, sau khi, trước khi, etc.

(ii) Conjunctions of place/ space: nơi (nào), chỗ (nào), ở đâu, etc.

(iii) Conjunctives of manner: giống như, theo cách, giống như, etc.

(iv) Conjunctives of condition: nếu, trường hợp, trừ khi, etc.

(v) Conjunctives of cause/ reason: vì... nên..., do... nên..., sở dĩ... là do..., etc.

(vi) Conjunctives of reason: vì, bởi vì, do, vì lẽ, bởi, do, tại vì, etc.

(vii) Conjunctives of result/ consequence: (cho/ vậy) nên, kết quả là, (chính) vì vậy, khiến, do đó, etc.

(viii) Conjunctives of purpose: để, nhằm, etc.

(ix) Conjunctives of concession: tuy, dù/ tuy... nhưng/ mà..., mặc dù... nhưng/ mà..., etc.

5.2.2. Operation of Expansion in Vietnamese Clause Complexes

- Elaboration in Vietnamese clause complexes works in three modes, or three sub-relations: exposition, exemplification, and clarification. In a paratactic clause complex, the elaborated clause always initiates, the elaborating clause follows. In a hypotactic clause complex, the positions of the clauses are varied. In clause complexes of exposition, the secondary clause can either restate the primary clause (in paratactic complex, by generalizing and specifying) or modify the primary clause (in hypotactic complex, in the role of a non-defining relative clause). In clause complexes of exemplification, the elaborating clause can function as the illustration of the whole or of a part of the elaborated clause. In clause complexes of clarification, the expansion relation works in the way that the elaborating clause explains, or comments, or both explains and comments on the elaborated clause.

Ngoài những sóng thông thường trên, **sóng thần là một con quái vật của tự nhiên**, || nó có

thể cao đến 30 m. (201_47) (*exposition: restating by specifying*)

Giao diện lớp ngoài đơn giản và thân thiện, giống như cửa sổ chat Yahoo hoặc Skype || nhưng chứa đựng kết nối đa năng, đa phương tiện ở bên trong, || *đó là sức mạnh ẩn giấu của Microsoft Lync mà Tập đoàn Microsoft vừa chính thức giới thiệu tại Việt Nam đầu tháng 12/2010.* (206_66) (*exposition: restating by generalizing*)

Bên cạnh đó là đền thờ Hadrian với hai mái vòm, || *mái ngoài cùng là mặt tượng Hadrian || và bên trong là mặt tượng Medusa.* (207_56) (*explaining*)

Buôn làng nhìn mưa, || *vui như hội.* (210_39) (*commenting*)

Thị trường căn hộ cũng bị quá cung, || *chỉ có 50% của 100.000 căn hộ dự kiến có khả năng được xây dựng trong năm tới.* (204_9) (*explaining and commenting*)

The interdependency of constituent clauses of elaboration can be demonstrated through the reciprocal influence in clause moods. The paratactically related constituent clauses are of the same mood, but in hypotactic relation, the usual mood of elaborating clause is declarative mood.

- Extension in Vietnamese clause complexes, either paratactic or hypotactic, works as addition or variation. Paratactic complexes of extension can work with structural conjunctions, with or without conjunctives, while in hypotactic complexes of extension, conjunctives are always needed. In clause complex of addition, there are specific conjunctives for positive and adversative addition, but no specific conjunctives for negative addition. Conjunctives for addition thus convey not only logical meaning but certain interpersonal meaning of the complex.

In clause complex of variation, the expansion process can be either replacive or alternative.

IE9 ngay sau khi ra mắt, nó được cho là khởi động nhanh hơn bất kỳ trình duyệt nào khác, || *nhưng* mà tốc độ tải trang khá nhanh cùng với một giao diện rất thân thiện với người dùng. (*adversative addition*)

Không những đội nữ luôn xếp sau Thái Lan, || *mà* mấy năm nay đội nam VN còn thua cả đội bóng xếp vào hạng yếu như Myanmar. (209_49) (*positive addition*)

Conjunctives used in variation can tell just the logical meaning of the clause complex, not the interpersonal meaning. The logico-semantic relation of extension offers good environment for correlative structures, which can be considered typical kind of conjunctives for extension in Vietnamese.

- Enhancement in Vietnamese clause complexes works in two ways: either the secondary clause coordinates circumstantial features with the process in the primary clause, or the secondary clause attributes the primary clauses with circumstantial features. Conjunctives are specific to the type of circumstantial feature that the secondary clause associates to the primary clause. Vietnamese conjunctives for enhancement are therefore classified according to circumstantial feature they demonstrate. These conjunctives are quite explicit in meaning, so conjunctives of the same groups can substitute one another, but conjunctives of different groups usually cannot be used interchangeably.

Sở dĩ có tình trạng này || *là do* cơ quan tổ tụng áp dụng quy định của BLTTHS năm 2003 và các văn bản hướng dẫn chứ không áp dụng Luật Luật sư. (203_43) (*hypotactic, attributing circumstantial feature of cause/ effect*)

Để làm được điều này, || cần phải có chiến lược và "bắt mạch" thị trường chuẩn xác. (204_14) (*hypotactic, attributing circumstantial feature of purpose*)

Nền kinh tế của Việt Nam đang trên đà phát triển nhanh, || *nhưng* với một cấu trúc hết sức mỏng manh. (208_54) (*paratactic, coordinating circumstantial feature of concession*)

Tôi khê gât, || *nhìn* màu chói gắt đang đổ ập xuống đầu mình. (210_11) (*paratactic, coordinating circumstantial feature of manner*)

- Ellipsis of subject and ellipsis of conjunctives, especially relative expressions, are possible because the logico-semantic relation of expansion informs about the relation between the elliptic clause and other clauses in the complex, thus allows inference and recoverage of the subject or the conjunctives that are omitted.

Chúng ta có tham vọng rất lớn, || [1] có nhu cầu phát triển rất cao, || *nhưng* [2] có tầm nhìn và khả năng dự báo hết sức hạn chế v.v. (208_55)

Chúng ta có tham vọng rất lớn, || *chúng ta* có nhu cầu phát triển rất cao, || *nhưng chúng ta* có tầm nhìn và khả năng dự báo hết sức hạn chế v.v.

Sometimes, constituent clauses in the clause complex are all subject-elliptic, which is the phenomenon of *unidentified subject*, is characterized as a common feature of Vietnamese clause complexes.

Chỉ khi tạo dựng được các sản phẩm phù hợp với xu hướng và bật lên được đẳng cấp của chủ sở hữu || *thì mới* có cơ hội thành công. (204_16)

Chỉ khi *chúng ta/ họ/ chúng tôi/ công ty đó* tạo dựng được các sản phẩm phù hợp với xu hướng và bật lên được đẳng cấp của chủ sở hữu || *thì chúng ta/ họ/ chúng tôi/ công ty đó mới* có cơ hội thành công.

Unidentified subject means that any meaningful choices of the subject can be accepted. In sum, ellipsis of subject, which is used as a grammatical device to construe the relationship of expansion between two clauses in a clause complex, is a popular feature of Vietnamese.

6. Conclusions

The study is one of the first attempts in bringing profound clarification on the linguistic area of logico-semantic relations in Vietnamese clause complexes. The big conclusion to be drawn out is: SFL is a feasible and effective theoretical framework to describe areas in the system of Vietnamese grammar and therefore will enable the comparison between the grammatical system of Vietnamese and those of other languages. With the weight put on the functions of language and with an aim to describe the systems of language as a whole, SFL can be a reliable and comprehensive theoretical framework to describe and compare languages, providing that the theoretical framework is overarching enough to consist of criteria which are, to a certain extent, universal to all languages. The more general and systematically structured the analytical framework is, the more applicable it can be to different languages. Accordingly, it seems advisable that in descriptive and comparative studies, the research starts with the general and systematically structured analytical framework, and delicate analyses are conducted along the way, so that detail findings can be achieved.

Theoretically speaking, findings in this study can be a reference for the linguists who attempt to investigate logico-semantic relations in Vietnamese and compare logico-semantic

relations and the related linguistic areas in Vietnamese and other languages.

Methodologically speaking, the same procedural steps as the one used in this study can also be applied in other comparative studies of the logico-semantic relationships in clause complexes in other languages. Corpus-based approach has been proved to be reliable and effective in describing linguistic items and in comparing how they are realized and how they work in different languages.

SysFan and other software in SFL can be good computational tools for corpora compilation, annotation, and abstraction. They can be of best assistance in significantly decreasing the best possible the workload that researchers have to do in data collection and data analysis. It is, therefore, advisable that they are employed in other SFL studies.

However, as this is an exploratory study in which descriptive method is used in the methodology of corpus-based approach, the findings are, therefore, just the description as observed from the corpora. It is suggested that further studies will focus on explaining why there are such features as described, basing on the theories on language acquisition and language families. Additionally, further research can also focus on describing other grammatical areas using the SFL theoretical framework, or comparing the logico-semantic relations Vietnamese and in other languages in the light of SFL.

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Mối quan hệ bành trướng trong tổ hợp cú tiếng Việt: Mô tả theo quan điểm chức năng hệ thống

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Khoa Ngôn ngữ và Văn hóa các nước nói tiếng Anh

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Tóm tắt: Bài báo mô tả mối quan hệ bành trướng – một loại của mối quan hệ lôgic-ngữ nghĩa trong tổ hợp cú tiếng Việt theo quan điểm chức năng hệ thống (SFL). Lý thuyết chức năng hệ thống đã được sử dụng để mô tả ngữ pháp tiếng Việt trong một số công trình nghiên cứu như của Hoàng Văn Vân [1] và Thái Minh Đức [2] tiến hành tại Đại Học Macquarie, Australia. Trong 10 năm trở lại đây, một số nghiên cứu theo đường hướng chức năng khác cũng đã mô tả thêm một số mảng trong hệ thống ngữ pháp tiếng Việt. Bài báo này mô tả một khía cạnh khác của ngữ pháp tiếng Việt từ quan điểm chức năng hệ thống: quy trình triển khai và kết quả của một nghiên cứu mối quan hệ bành trướng trong tổ hợp cú với khung lý thuyết Halliday's [3].

Từ khóa: SFL, tổ hợp cú, mối quan hệ logic-ngữ nghĩa, bành trướng, chi tiết hóa, mở rộng, tăng cường.