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CLAUSE COMPLEX RESOURCES REALISING LOGICAL MEANINGS IN A LITERARY TEXT: A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS ANALYSIS

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Abstract. This descriptive qualitative-quantitative research attempts to explore in-depth clause complex resources and how they are employed in the construction of logical meanings in a literary text. The data for analysis is “Chapter 1” – “The Period” of “Book the First” of the three-book novel “A Tale of Two Cities” by the eminent British novelist Charles Dickens. The theoretical framework adopted for analysing the data is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The units of analysis are paratactic and hypotactic clause complexes. Findings of the study exhibit a number of clause combining features, of which four stand out: (1) the text is organised mainly around clause complexes; (2) in terms of TAXIS or degree of interdependency, clause simplexes are linked to one another to form clause complexes mostly by hypotactic relation; (3) in terms of LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION or type of interdependence, clause simplexes are linked to one another mostly by expansion mode; and (4) of the three modes of expansion: elaboration, extension, and enhancement, enhancement takes up the largest proportion, whereas elaboration does not feature in the text. The study closes with a summary of the salient clause combining features found in the text, a recommendation affirming the relevance of SFL as a theoretical framework for analysing and interpreting logical meanings of texts in general and of literary texts in particular for teaching, learning and research, and some suggestions for further study.

Keywords: clause complex resources, logical meaning, degree of interdependency, type of interdependence, “A Tale of Two Cities”

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CÁC NGUỒN TÀI NGUYÊN CÚ PHỨC HIỆN THỰC HÓA CÁC Ý NGHĨA LOGIC TRONG MỘT VĂN BẢN VĂN HỌC: NGHIÊN CỨU THEO LÝ THUYẾT CHỨC NĂNG HỆ THỐNG

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Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu theo hướng mô tả định tính - định lượng này cố gắng khám phá sâu về các nguồn tài nguyên cú phức và cách chúng được sử dụng như thế nào trong việc kiến tạo ý nghĩa logic trong một văn bản văn học. Dữ liệu để phân tích là “Chương 1” – “Thời ấy” của “Quyển thứ nhất” trong bộ tiểu thuyết ba tập “Một câu chuyện về hai thành phố” của tiểu thuyết gia người Anh nổi tiếng Charles Dickens. Khung lý thuyết được áp dụng để phân tích dữ liệu là ngôn ngữ học chức năng hệ thống. Đơn vị phân tích là cú phức đồng đẳng và cú phức phụ thuộc. Những phát hiện của nghiên cứu này cho thấy một số đặc điểm kết hợp cú điển hình trong văn bản, trong đó có bốn đặc điểm nổi bật: (1) văn bản được tổ chức chủ yếu xung quanh các cú phức; (2) về mặt THỰC BẬC hay mức độ phụ thuộc lẫn nhau, các cú đơn được liên kết với nhau để hình thành nên cú phức chủ yếu bằng mối quan hệ phụ thuộc; (3) về mặt QUAN HỆ LOGIC-NGỮ NGHĨA hay kiểu phụ thuộc lẫn nhau, các cú đơn được liên kết với nhau chủ yếu bằng phương thức bành trướng; (4) trong ba phương thức bành trướng: chi tiết, mở rộng và tăng cường, phương thức tăng cường chiếm tỉ lệ lớn nhất, trong khi phương thức chi tiết không xuất hiện trong văn bản. Nghiên cứu kết thúc bằng việc tóm tắt các đặc điểm kết hợp cú nổi bật tìm thấy trong văn bản, khuyến nghị khẳng định sự quan yếu của ngôn ngữ học chức năng hệ thống như một khung lý thuyết dùng để phân tích và diễn giải ý nghĩa logic của văn bản nói chung và của văn bản văn học nói riêng phục vụ cho giảng dạy, học tập và nghiên cứu, và một số gợi ý cho nghiên cứu tiếp theo.

Từ khóa: các nguồn tài nguyên cú phức, ý nghĩa logic, mức độ phụ thuộc lẫn nhau, kiểu phụ thuộc lẫn nhau, “Một câu chuyện về hai thành phố”

1. Introduction

In this study, an attempt is made to look in detail at clause complex resources and how they are employed to construct logical meanings in a literary text – a topic which has received very little attention in English literature teaching, learning and research, particularly at tertiary EFL (English as a foreign language) departments or faculties. The data for analysis is “Chapter 1” – “The Period” of “Book the First” of the famous three-book novel “A Tale of Two Cities” by the eminent British novelist Charles Dickens. There are four reasons for the choice of the data: (1) “A Tale of Two Cities” is one of Charles Dickens’ best, most exciting, and most successful literary works; (2) the novel has been adapted for film, television, radio, and the stage in Britain (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Tale_of_Two_Cities); (3) it has been translated into several languages, including Vietnamese (see Dickens, 2018); and (4) although “The Period” is a short text – a part of a long text, to be more specific, it contains enough data to give significant clause complex resources characterising logical meanings of the text. The theoretical framework adopted for analysing the data of this study is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) – a world-famous model of language developed by Halliday (1961, 1976, 1978, 1985, 1994, 2012, and elsewhere), Matthiessen (1995), Martin (1992), Halliday & Martin (2005); Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), and other systemic functional scholars. The paper is

organised around five main sections. Following Section one which states the rationale of the study. Section two provides an overview of SFL, examining, in particular, the features of the model that are relevant to the focus of this study. Section three is concerned with research design and methodology. Section four provides an in-depth presentation and discussion of the research findings. Section five offers a summary of the key findings from the study, highlights the applicability of SFL to the analysis of clause complex resources to uncover logical meanings of literary texts for teaching, learning and research purposes, and makes some suggestions for further research.

2. An Overview of Systemic Functional Linguistics

Over the past few decades, an interesting trend in the area of language education has been the development of educational linguistics, the application of linguistic theory to the analysis of texts for teaching, learning and research purposes. One linguistic approach that has proved to be extremely fruitful in this respect is SFL developed by Halliday (1961, 1973, 1976, 1978, 2017) and other systemic functional scholars (e.g. Hasan, 2011, Matthiessen, 1995, 2001; Martin, 1992 and elsewhere). Ever since its inception in the early 1960s, SFL has constantly evolved toward perfection. In its current formulation, SFL is a comprehensive, multidimensional model of language, consisting of six dimensions: stratification, rank, metafunction, delicacy, and axis (see Halliday, 1961, 1976, 2017; Matthiessen, 2001; Hoang, 2021). Within the metafunction dimension, SFL postulates that language is organised around four metafunctions: experiential, logical, interpersonal, and textual. And within the stratification dimension, SFL conceptualises language as consisting of four strata: context, semantics, lexicogrammar, and phonology/graphology. SFL claims that the relation between these strata is that of realisation, with the lower stratum realising the next higher one: phonology realises lexicogrammar which realises semantics which realises context (Hasan & Perret, 1994; Matthiessen, 1995; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Hoang, 2012, 2020, 2021). It is not the intention of this paper to present a comprehensive review of the SFL model. In what follows, we will draw attention to only those features of the stratification and metafunction dimensions which appear directly relevant to our research purposes. Specifically, we will focus our review on two main headings: (1) context and (2) the logical metafunction and its realisation through the systems of TAXIS or degree of interdependency and LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION or type of interdependence.

2.1. Context

In SFL, context is the higher-order semiotic system above the linguistic system (Halliday, 1978; Hasan, 2011; Matthiessen, Teruya & Lam, 2010, p. 77). SFL postulates context as a theoretical construct consisting of three social situation categories referred to respectively as **field of discourse**, **tenor of discourse**, and **mode of discourse** (Halliday, McIntosh & Strevens, 1964; Halliday, 1978; Gregory & Carroll, 1978; Halliday & Hasan, 1989; Matthiessen, 1995; Hasan, 2011). Field of discourse refers to what is going on in the speech situation, to the nature of the social action that is taking place. Tenor of discourse refers to who is taking part, to the role relationships of those involved in the speech situation. Mode of discourse refers to what the language is playing in the speech situation, to the channel of communication (is it spoken or written or some combination of the two?). It is concerned with textual features such as point of departure of the clause, rhetoric patterns in the clause complex, and cohesive and coherent features of discourse – with how clauses “hang together” to make discourse a unified whole (Halliday, 1978; Halliday & Hasan, 1976, 1989; Martin & Rose,

2013). Field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse constitute what Halliday et al (1964), Halliday (1978), Gregory & Carroll (1978), and Halliday & Hasan (1989) refer to as “register”, defined by Halliday (1978, p. 195) as “a set of meanings that is appropriate to a particular function of language, together with the words and structures which express these meanings”.

Context has a very important role in discourse analysis. It provides clues for interpreting text meanings at the semantic stratum. SFL claims that given an adequate specification of the semiotic properties of the context in terms of field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse, one can predict not everything, but still a great deal about the language that will occur, with reasonable probability of being right (Halliday, 1974, 1978; Halliday & Hasan, 1989; Hoang, 2012, 2024).

2.2. The Logical Metafunction and Its Realisation Through the Systems of TAXIS and LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION

The multidimension of the SFL model suggests that, a full-scale analysis for the meanings of a text using SFL as theoretical framework involves quite a number of dimensions, extending from analysis of the context of situation or “categories of social situation”, to use Hasan & Perrett’s (1994, p. 189) terminology, in which the text is embedded, analysis of the various metafunctions or strands of meaning activated by the corresponding categories of social situation: experiential, interpersonal, and textual, realised in their respective lexicogrammatical structures: transitivity, mood, and theme. And if a text consists of several clause simplexes logically linked together, the analysis of the text should also involve examining various clause combining resources to unveil how clause simplexes hang together to make the text a unified whole (Halliday, 1985, 1994, 2012 and elsewhere; Halliday & Hasan, 1976, 1989; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). What are these links between the clause simplexes? SFL claims that they are linked to each other by two general systems or modes of logical relationships referred to respectively as TAXIS and LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION.

TAXIS, according to Halliday (1985, 1994 and elsewhere), Matthiessen (1995), Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), and Matthiessen, Teruya & Lam (2010), is concerned with degree of interdependence between clauses in the clause complex. It has two delicate systems each of which indicates a kind of logico-semantic relation between clauses: PARATACTIC (“coordinate”, in traditional grammar terminology) and HYPOTACTIC (“subordinate”, in traditional grammar terminology). When two clause simplexes in a clause complex are of equal status, they are said to be in paratactic relation as *The Stryver clerk had gone home* (initiating clause) and *and the Stryver principal opened the door* (continuing clause) in *The Stryver clerk had gone home, and the Stryver principal opened the door* or *Today is a holiday* and *but the children are in school* in *Today is a holiday, but the children are in school*. In contrast, when two clause simplexes in a clause complex are of unequal status, they are said to be in hypotactic relation as *He added the last words* (dominant clause) and *after there had been a vivid flash which had shown him lounging in the window* (dependent clause) in *He added the last words, after there had been a vivid flash which had shown him lounging in the window*.

LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION is concerned with type of interdependence. It comprises two fundamental systems: EXPANSION and PROJECTION. Expansion refers to a clause complex in which the secondary clause expands the primary clause by one of the three modes: (1) elaboration: “one clause elaborates on the meaning of another by specifying or describing it” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 461) as in *My watch stops; it’s broken down*, (2) extension: “one clause extends the meaning of another by adding something new to it” (Halliday &

Matthiessen, 2014, p. 471) as in *He had asked the prisoner, and the prisoner had engaged him*, and (3) enhancement: “one clause (or sub-complex) enhances the meaning of another by qualifying it in one of a number of possible ways: by reference to time, place, manner, cause or condition” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 476) as in *Stranger things than that will happen when it does come* (time), and *Now don't be angry at my asking all these questions; because I am a mere dull man of business* (cause).

Projection refers to a clause complex in which the secondary clause is projected through the primary clause which instates it as a locution or an idea (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 443). Related to locution and ideas are two logico-semantic relations referred to respectively as “quoting” and “reporting”. Quoting refers to a clause complex in which one clause called “projecting clause” projects another clause called “projected clause”, and the projected clause represents that which is said as in *Mr Lorry said* (projecting clause): “*I know this messenger, guard.*” (projected clause). In quoting, the projecting clause and the projected clause are of equal status: They are of paratactic relation. Reporting, in contrast, is concerned with a clause complex in which one clause reports another clause, and the reported clause represents the idea of that which is said, thought, or commented as in *She said* (reporting clause) *that he was a kind-hearted man* (reported clause), *I thought* (reporting clause) *he was rather a handsome fellow* (reported clause) or *It was sad* (reporting clause) *that they didn't come to the meeting* (reported clause). In a reporting clause complex, the reporting clause and the reported clause are of unequal status: the reporting clause is the dominant or independent clause and the reported clause is the subordinate or dependent one. (For more detail about clause complex resources and their logico-semantic relations, see Halliday, 1985, 1994, 2012; Matthiessen, 1995; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Matthiessen et al, 2010; Hasan, 1993; Hoang, 2012, 2018; see also Nguyen, 2013).

3. Research Methodology

This study employs a descriptive qualitative-quantitative research method reflected in the subsections that follow.

3.1. Aim of Study and Research Questions

The overarching aim of the study is to explore clause complex resources in “Chapter 1” – “The Period” of “Book the First” of the famous three-book novel “A Tale of Two Cities” and how they are deployed to realise logical meanings in the text, using SFL as the analytical framework. To achieve the aim, the study raises the following questions for exploration:

- What clause complex resources are utilised in the construction of the text?
- How are these clause complex resources utilised to realise logical meanings in the text?

3.2. Data Collection

The data for the study is taken from Chapter 1 entitled “The Period”. It is the first chapter of the first book – “Book the First” in the long famous historical three-book novel – “A Tale of Two Cities” by the eminent British novelist Charles Dickens. In this chapter, Charles Dickens introduces and depicts things, people and events characterising the chaos and social instabilities in two capital cities – London in England and Paris in France – in the final quarter of the eighteenth century. The version of the novel taken as data for analysis was published in 2003 by CRW Publishing Limited. For analytical purposes, the chapter under study is referred to as

text.

3.3. Analytical Procedure and Aspects of Data Analysis

The study is intended to analyse the full transcript of Chapter 1. After the full transcript of the chapter had been obtained from the novel, it was carefully read to ensure a comprehensive grasp of the content. During the reading process, special attention was paid to clause complex resources realising logical meanings in the text. To answer the above research questions, the analysis of the data follows three main steps: (1) analysis of the contextual configuration in which the text is embedded to lay ground for further analysis and discussion in the subsequent sections; (2) analysis for base-line information of the text (see Appendix); and (3) analysis of the clause complexes in terms of degree of interdependency (TAXIS) and type of interdependence (LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION) to uncover logico-semantic meanings of the text.

Instances of the analysed aspects are counted; frequency of each feature is obtained by number and, where possible, in proportion in its relevant total, (percentage rounded to the nearest figure). Findings are displayed in tables and figures, and discussion of the clause complex features realising logical meanings employed in each paragraph and in the entire text is provided.

3.4. Notational Conventions

The notational conventions used for analysis and discussion of the text are provided as follows:

- ||| indicate clause complex boundary
- || indicate clause simplex boundary
- (I), (II), (III) ... indicate numbers of clause complex
- (1), (2), (3) ... indicate numbers of clause simplex
- (1) ^ (2) ^ (3) ... indicate sequence of independent clauses in a paratactic clause complex
- α indicate dominant clause in a hypotactic clause complex
- β, γ, \dots indicate dependent clause in a hypotactic clause complex
- = indicate expansion: elaborating relationship in a clause complex
- + indicate expansion: extending relationship in a clause complex
- x indicate expansion: enhancing relationship in a clause complex
- “ indicate quoting projection: locution
- ‘ indicate reporting projection: idea
- ^ indicate clause sequence

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1. Contextual Configuration of the Text

The analysis of the contextual configuration of the text has already been provided elsewhere (see Hoang, 2024). For purposes of this study, it is reproduced below with more focus on types of taxis and logico-semantic relations.

The text under examination is one of the fifteen chapters in “A Tale of Two Cities”, but judging from the contents presented in it we can see “how it springs from its environment [context of situation] and is determined by the specific features of that environment” (Halliday, 1978, p. 150). Thus, the contextual configuration of the text in terms of field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse can be stated as follows.

Field of discourse:

- A part of a long historical novel, introducing and depicting things, people and events happening in two capital cities – London in England and Paris in France – in the last quarter of the 18th century.
- Participant types: Carrier, Existent, Actor, Sayer, Senser
- Process types: relational, existential, material, verbal, mental
- Types of taxis relation: predominantly of hypotactic relation
- Types of logico-semantic relation: mostly of expansion mode

Tenor of discourse:

- Writer to readers; writer adopting the role as recounter
- Readers: general and unseen
- Mood types: entirely declarative
- Subject types: a combination of both human and non-human

Mode of discourse:

- Medium: written to be read
- Channel: verbal
- Self-sufficiency of text: highly self-sufficient, evident in a considerable number of endophoric (anaphoric as well as cataphoric) references within the text itself.
- Thematic types: marked, unmarked, simple, multiple, and clausal

4.2. Base-line Information

Analysis in the Appendix shows that the text has 1019 total running words, 6 paragraphs, 80 clause simplexes of which 62 are finite and 18 are non-finite. Analysis in the Appendix also shows that the text consists of 20 clause complexes which contains 72/80 clause simplexes, accounting for 90 per cent of all clause simplexes in the text. Findings of base-line information of the text can be summarised in Table 1. Further findings existing in the text which are not shown in the table will be brought out in the analysis of the relevant sections that follow.

Table 1*Base-line Information*

Number of total running words:	1019
Number of paragraphs:	6
Number of clause simplexes:	80
- Number of finite clause simplexes:	62
- Number of non-finite clause simplexes:	18
Number of clause complexes:	20
- Number of clause simplexes:	72

4.3. Findings of Clause Complex Resources

Based on the analysis of the contextual configuration of the text and on the base-line information in Table 1, we now embark on investigating how the clause simplexes in 20 clause complexes in the text are linked with one another by means of some kind of logico-semantic relation to form clause complexes representing what Matthiessen (1995) and Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) refer to as “sequences of figures” or “moves” (to use Swale’s 1990 terminology) that are presented as textually related messages. Our presentation and discussion

will revolve around two dimensions: TAXIS or degree of interdependency and LOGICO-SEMANTIC RELATION or type of interdependence. For presentation purposes, we will move from one clause complex to the next, and place each clause complex above the corresponding presentation and discussion of findings

(I) || (1) It was the best of times, || (2) it was the worst of times, || (3) it was the age of wisdom, || (4) it was the age of foolishness, || (5) it was the epoch of belief, || (6) it was the epoch of incredulity, || (7) it was the season of Light, || (8) it was the season of Darkness, || (9) it was the spring of hope, || (10) it was the winter of despair, || (11) we had everything before us, || (12) we had nothing before us, || (13) we were all going direct to Heaven, || (14) we were all going direct the other way ||

Clause complex **(I)** is structured around 14 clause simplexes. They form a single clause complex on three grounds. First, although they are presented separately without any explicit linkers or connectors between them, all their experiential contents are related to the topic of Chapter 1 – “The Period”. Second, they all construe what Halliday & Matthiessen (2014, p. 479) refer to as “an event line”, reflected in that the Subject/Theme “it” remains constant in the first ten clause simplexes, and the Subject/Theme “we” runs consistently through the last four clause simplexes. And third, the tense selections are typically a succession of simple past combined with past progressive (as in *was* [clauses (1) to (10)] – *had* [clauses (11) and (12)] – *were going* [clauses (13) and (14)]). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation: they are all paratactic clause simplexes, have equal status, and are “independent of one another” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 438). And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, extending from clause simplex (1) through to clause simplex (14).

The logical relation of clause complex **(I)** can be represented as follows:

$$(1) \wedge + (2) \wedge + (3) \wedge + \dots \wedge + (14)$$

(II) || (15) – in short, the period was so far like the present period, || (16) that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. ||

Clause complex **(II)** is structured into two clause simplexes: (15) and (16). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (15) is the dominant (paratactic) clause simplex and (16) is the dependent (hypotactic) one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (16) expands: extends the meaning of (15).

The logical relation of clause complex **(II)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(15) \wedge + \beta(16)$$

(III) || (19) In both countries it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes, || (20) that things in general were settled for ever. ||

Clause complex **(III)** consists of two clause simplexes: (19) and (20). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (19) is the paratactic/dominant clause simplex and (20) is the hypotactic/dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of projection mode, where (19) – the projecting clause, which is a relational clause – expresses the writer’s explicit, objective opinion or comment on the fact stated in (20), and (20) – the projected clause, which is a material clause – states the fact (see Halliday, 1985, pp. 332-334; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, pp. 678, 689, 698; see also Collins Cobuild, 2000, p. 339).

The logical relation of clause complex **(III)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(19) \wedge \beta(20)$$

(IV) ||| (23) Mrs Southcott had recently attained her five- and-twentieth blessed birthday, || (24) of whom a prophetic private in the Life Guards had heralded the sublime appearance by announcing that arrangements were made for the swallowing up of London and Westminster. |||

Clause complex **(IV)** is organized around two clause simplexes: (23) and (24). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (23) is the dominant clause simplex and (24) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (24) expands: extends the meaning of (23).

The logical relation of clause complex **(IV)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(23) \wedge +\beta(24)$$

(V) ||| (25) Even the Cock Lane ghost had been laid only a round dozen of years, || (26) after rapping out its messages, || (27) as the spirits of this very year last past (supernaturally deficient in originality) rapped out theirs. |||

Clause complex **(V)** contains three clause simplexes: (25), (26), and (27). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (25) is the dominant clause simplex and (26) and (27) are the dependent ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (26) and (27) expand: enhance the meaning of (25) by reference to time.

The logical relation of clause complex **(V)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(25) \wedge x\beta(26) \wedge x\gamma(27)$$

(VI) ||| (28) Mere messages in the earthly order of events had lately come to the English Crown and People, from a congress of British subjects in America: || (29) which, strange to relate, have proved more important to the human race than any communications yet received through any of the chickens of the Cock Lane brood. |||

Clause complex **(VI)** consists of two clause simplexes: (28) and (29). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (28) is the dominant clause simplex and (29) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (29) expands: extends the meaning of (28).

The logical relation of clause complex **(VI)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(28) \wedge +\beta(29)$$

(VII) ||| (30) France, less favoured on the whole as to matters spiritual than her sister of the shield and trident, rolled with exceeding smoothness down hill, || (31) making paper money || (32) and spending it. |||

Clause complex **(VII)** contains three clause simplexes: (30), (31), and (32). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (30) is the dominant clause simplex, and (31) and (32) are the dependent ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (31) and (32) expand: extend the meaning of (30).

The logical relation of clause complex **(VII)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(30) \wedge +\beta_1(31) \wedge +\beta_2(32)$$

(VIII) ||| (33) Under the guidance of her Christian pastors, she entertained herself, besides, with such humane achievements as sentencing a youth to have his hands cut off, his tongue torn out with pincers, and his body burned alive, || (34) because he had not kneeled down in the rain || (35) to do honour to a dirty procession of monks which passed within his view, at a distance of some fifty or sixty yards. |||

Clause complex **(VIII)** contains three clause simplexes: (33), (34), and (35) with two layers of complexing. The first layer consists of clause simplex (33) and the subclause complex

of (34) and (35). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (33) is the dominant clause simplex, and the subclause complex of (34) and (35) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where the subclause complex of (34) and (35) expands: enhances the meaning of (33) by reference to cause. The logical relation of (33) and the subclause complex of (34) and (35) can be represented as $\alpha(33) \wedge x\beta((34) \wedge (35))$.

The second layer of complexing consists of (34) and (35). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation, where (34) is the dominant clause simplex and (35) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (35) expands: enhances the meaning of (34) by reference to purpose, represented as $\alpha(34) \wedge x\beta(35)$.

The logical relation of clause complex **(VIII)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(33) \wedge x(\beta\alpha(34) \wedge x\beta\beta(35))$$

(IX) ||| (36) It is likely enough || (37) that, rooted in the woods of France and Norway, there were growing trees, when that sufferer was put to death, already marked by the Woodman, fate, to come down and be sawn into boards, to make a certain movable framework with a sack and a knife in it, terrible in history. |||

Clause complex **(IX)** consists of two clause simplexes: (36) and (37). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (36) is the paratactic/dominant clause simplex and (37) is the hypotactic/dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of projection mode, where (36) – the projecting clause, which is a relational clause – expresses the writer’s explicit, objective opinion or comment on the fact stated in (37), and (37) – the projected clause, which is an existential clause – states the fact (see Halliday, 1985, pp. 332-334; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, pp. 678, 689, 698; see also Collins Cobuild, 2000, p. 339).

The logical relation of complex **(IX)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(36) \wedge \beta(37)$$

(X) ||| (38) It is likely enough || (39) that in the rough outhouses of some tillers of the heavy lands adjacent to Paris, there were sheltered from the weather that very day, rude carts, bespattered with rustic mire, snuffed about by pigs, and roosted in by poultry, which the farmer, death, had already set apart to be his tumbrils of the Revolution. |||

The pattern of clause complex **(X)** is similar to that of clause complex **(IX)**. It consists of two clause simplexes: (38) and (39). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (38) is the paratactic/dominant clause simplex and (39) is the hypotactic/dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of projection mode, where (38) – the projecting clause, which is a relational clause – expresses the writer’s explicit, objective opinion or comment on the fact stated in (39), and (39) – the projected clause, which is an existential clause – states the fact (see Halliday, 1985, pp. 332-334; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, pp. 678, 689, 698; see also Collins Cobuild, 2000, p. 339).

The logical relation of clause complex **(X)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(38) \wedge \beta(39)$$

(XI) ||| (40) But that woodman and that farmer, || (41) though they work unceasingly ||, work silently, || (42) and no one heard them || (43) as they went about with muffled tread: the rather, forasmuch as to entertain any suspicion that they were awake, was to be atheistical and traitorous. |||

Clause complex **(XI)** is organised around four clause simplexes: (40), (41), (42), and

(43). These clause simplexes fall within two subclause complexes. The first subclause complex consists of (40) and (41), and the second one consists of (42) and (43). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation: the subclause complex of (40) and (41) and the subclause complex of (42) and (43) have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where the subclause complex of (42) and (43) expands: extends the meaning of the subclause complex of (40) and (41). The logical relation of these subclause complexes can be represented as $1((40) \wedge (41)) \wedge +2((42) \wedge (43))$.

A closer analysis of the subclause complex of (40) and (41) shows that (41) is placed within (40). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (40) is the dominant clause simplex and (41) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (41) expands: enhances the meaning of (40) by reference to concession, represented as $\alpha(40) \wedge x\beta(41)$. And a closer analysis of the second subclause complex of (42) and (43) indicates that in terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation, where (42) is the dominant clause simplex and (43) is the dependent one; and in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode where (43) expands: enhances the meaning of (42) by reference to time, represented as $\alpha(42) \wedge x\beta(43)$.

Putting together, the logical relation of clause complex **(XI)** can be represented as follows:

$$1(\alpha(40) \wedge x\beta(41)) \wedge +2(\alpha(42) \wedge x\beta(43))$$

(XII) ||| (44) In England, there was scarcely an amount of order and protection || (45) to justify much national boasting. |||

Clause complex **(XII)** consists of two clause simplexes: (44) and (45). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (44) is the dominant clause simplex and (45) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (45) expands: enhances the meaning of (44) by reference to purpose.

The logical relation of clause complex **(XII)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(44) \wedge x\beta(45)$$

(XIII) ||| (47) families were publicly cautioned || (48) not to go out of town without removing their furniture to upholsterers' warehouses for security; |||

Clause complex **(XIII)** contains two clause simplexes: (47) and (48). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (47) is the dominant clause simplex and (48) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (48) expands: enhances the meaning of (47) by reference to purpose.

The logical relation of clause complex **(XIII)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(47) \wedge x\beta(48)$$

(XIV) ||| (49) the highwayman in the dark was a City tradesman in the light, || (50) and, being recognised || (51) and challenged by his fellow-tradesman whom he stopped in his character of 'the Captain', (52) gallantly shot him through the head || and (53) rode away; |||

Clause complex **(XIV)** is structured around five clause simplexes: (49), (50), (51), (52) and (53) with two layers of complexing. The first layer consists of clause simplex (49) and subclause complex of (50), (51), (52), and (53). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation: (49) and the subclause complex of (50), (51), (52), and (53) have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where the subclause complex of (50), (51), (52), and (53) expands: extends the meaning of (49),

represented as $1(49) \wedge +2((50) \wedge (51) \wedge (52) \wedge (53))$.

The second layer of complexing consists of the subclause complex of (50), (51), (52), and (53). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (50) and (51) are the dependent clause simplexes and (52) and (53) are the dominant ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (50) and (51) expand: enhance the meaning of (52) and (53) by reference to cause (*being recognized* can be interpreted as *because being recognized ...*), represented as $x\beta(1(50) + 2(51)) \wedge \alpha((52) \wedge (53))$, and (53) expands: enhances the meaning of (52) by reference to time (*and rode away* can be interpreted as *and then rode away*), represented as $x\beta(1(50) \wedge +2(51)) \wedge \alpha(1(52) \wedge x2(53))$.

The logical relations of clause complex (XIV) can be represented as follows:

$$1(49) \wedge +2(x\beta(1(50) \wedge +2(51)) \wedge \alpha(1(52) \wedge x2(53)))$$

(XV) ||| (54) the mail was waylaid by seven robbers, || (55) and the guard shot three dead, || (56) and then got shot dead himself by the other four, 'in consequence of the failure of his ammunition': |||

Clause complex (XV) consists of three clause simplexes: (54), (55), and (56). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation: they are all paratactic clause simplexes and have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode: (55) and (56) expands: extends the meaning of (54).

The logical relations of clause complex (XV) can be represented as follows:

$$1(54) \wedge +2(55) \wedge +3(56)$$

(XVI) ||| (57) after which the mail was robbed in peace; || (58) that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made || (59) to stand and deliver on Turnham Green, by one highwayman, who despoiled the illustrious creature in sight of all his retinue; |||

Clause complex (XVI) consists of three clause simplexes: (57), (58) and (59). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (57) is the dominant clause simplex and (58) and (59) are the dependent ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (57) expands: enhances the meaning of (58) by reference to time, and (59) expands: enhances the meaning of (58) by reference to purpose.

The logical relations of clause complex (XVI) can be represented as follows:

$$x\beta(57) \wedge \alpha(58) \wedge x\gamma(59)$$

(XVII) ||| (60) prisoners in London gaols fought battles with their turnkeys, || (61) and the majesty of the law fired blunderbusses in among them, loaded with rounds of shot and ball; |||

Clause complex (XVII) consists of two clause simplexes: (60) and (61). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation: both (60) and (61) are paratactic clause simplexes and have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (61) expands: extends the meaning of (60).

The logical relation of clause complex (XVII) can be represented as follows:

$$1(60) \wedge +2(61)$$

(XVIII) ||| (63) musketeers went into St Giles's, || (64) to search for contraband goods, || (65) and the mob fired on the musketeers, || (66) and the musketeers fired on the mob, || (67) and nobody thought any of these occurrences much out of the common way. |||

Clause complex (XVIII) consists of five clause simplexes: (63), (64), (65), (66), and (67) with two layers of complexing. The first layer consists of subclause complex of (63) and (64). In terms of degree of interdependency, (63) and (64) are of hypotactic relation: (63) is the dominant clause simplex and (64) is the dependent one. And in terms of type of

interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (64) expands: enhances the meaning of (63) by reference to purpose. The logical relation of (63) and (64) can be represented as $\alpha(63) \wedge x\beta(64)$.

The second layer of complexing consists of subclause complex of (63) and (64) and three clause simplexes (65), (66), and (67). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of paratactic relation where the clause complex of (63) and (64) and the three clause simplexes: (65), (66), and 67 have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (65), (66) and (67) expand: extend the meaning of the clause complex of (63) and (64), represented as $1(63 \wedge 64) \wedge +2(65) \wedge +3(66) \wedge +4(67)$.

Putting the two layers of complexing together, the logical relation of clause complex **(XVIII)** can be represented as follows:

$$1(\alpha(63) \wedge x\beta(64)) \wedge +2(65) \wedge +3(66) \wedge +4(67)$$

(XIX) ||| (68) In the midst of them, the hangman, ever busy and ever worse than useless, was in constant requisition; || (69) now, stringing up long rows of miscellaneous criminals; || (70) now, hanging a housebreaker on Saturday who had been taken on Tuesday; || (71) now, burning people in the hand at Newgate by the dozen, || (72) and now burning pamphlets at the door of Westminster Hall; || (73) today, taking the life of an atrocious (murderer, || (74) and tomorrow of a wretched pilferer who had robbed a farmer's boy of sixpence. |||

Clause complex **(XIX)** contains seven clause simplexes: (68), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), and (74). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (68) is the dominant clause simplex and (69) to (74) are the dependent ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (69) to (74) all expand: enhance the meaning of (68) by reference to time.

The logical relation of clause complex **(XIX)** can be represented as follows:

$$\alpha(68) \wedge x\beta1(69) \wedge x\beta2(70) \wedge x\beta3(71) \wedge x\beta4(72) \wedge x\beta5(73) \wedge x\beta6(74)$$

(XX) ||| (76) Environed by them, || (77) while the woodman and the farmer worked unheeded, || (78) those two of the large jaws, and those other two of the plain and the fair faces, trod with stir enough, || (79) and carried their divine rights with a high hand. |||

Clause complex **(XX)** contains four clause simplexes: (76), (77), (78), and (79) with two layers of complexing. The first layer consists of subclause complex of (76), (77) and (78) and clause simplex (79). In terms of degree of interdependency, the subclause complex of (76), (77) and (78) and clause simplex (79) are of paratactic relation: clause complex of (76), (77) and (78) and clause simplex (79) have equal status. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: extension mode, where (79) expands: extends the meaning of clause complex of (76), (77) and (78), represented as $1(76 \wedge 77 \wedge 78) \wedge +2(79)$.

The second layer consists of subclause complex of (76), (77) and (78). In terms of degree of interdependency, they are of hypotactic relation: (78) is the dominant clause simplex, and (76) and (77) are the dependent ones. And in terms of type of interdependence, they are of expansion: enhancement mode, where (76) expands: enhances the meaning of (78) by reference to effect and (77) expands: extends the meaning of (78) by reference to time, represented as $x\gamma(76) \wedge x\beta(77) \wedge \alpha(1(78))$.

Putting the two layers of complexing together, the logical relation of clause complex **(XX)** can be represented as follows:

$$1(x\gamma(76) \wedge x\beta(77)) \wedge \alpha(1(78)) \wedge +2(79)$$

The main findings of clause complex resources realising logical meanings of the text in

terms of degrees of interdependency and type of interdependence can be summarised in the table below.

Table 2

Information of Clause Complexing Resources Realising Logical Meanings of the Text

Degrees of interdependency & type of interdependence	Number
Degree of interdependency:	26
- Number of paratactic relations:	7
- Number of hypotactic relations:	19
Type of interdependence:	26
- Number of expansion: elaboration relations:	0
- Number of expansion: extension relations:	11
- Number of expansion: enhancement relations:	12
- Number of projection: reporting relations:	3

5. Conclusion

5.1. Summary of Research Findings

In this study we have made an attempt to look in depth into clause complex resources realising logical meanings of Chapter 1 – “The Period” of Book 1 – “Book the First” of the three-book novel – “A Tale in Two Cities” by the famous British novelist Charles Dickens. The theoretical framework adopted for analysis is Systemic Functional Linguistics. The analysis of the text revolves around three main aspects: (1) analysis of the contextual configuration of the text in terms of field of discourse, tenor of discourse, and mode of discourse; (2) analysis for the base-line information of the text in terms of the number of total running words, the number of paragraphs, the number of clause simplexes (finite as well as non-finite), the number of clause complexes, and the number of clause simplexes within the clause complexes; and (3) analysis of the clause complex resources in terms of degree of interdependency and type of interdependence to uncover logico-semantic meanings of the text. We can now answer the research questions by summarising the main findings of our study as follows.

- The text mainly uses clause complex resources to construct logical meanings: of 80 clause simplexes in the text, 72 (accounting for 90 per cent) are structured within the 20 clause complexes.
- In terms of degree of interdependency, the clause simplexes in those clause complexes are linked to one another mostly by hypotactic relation: 19/26 (accounting for 73 per cent) v. 7/26 of paratactic relations (accounting for 27 per cent).
- In terms of type of interdependence, the clause simplexes in those clause complexes are linked to one another mostly by expansion mode: 23/26 (accounting for 88.5 per cent) v. 3/26 of projection mode (accounting for 11.5 per cent).
- Of the three modes of expansion: elaboration, extension and enhancement, enhancement mode takes up the highest number: 12/23 (accounting for 52.1 per cent), followed by extension mode: 11/26 (accounting for 47.8 per cent). Most striking of all is that elaboration mode does not feature in the text.
- And of the three projection clause complexes, all are of projection: reporting mode, with the conjunct *that* used to link the projected clauses with the projecting ones.

5.2. Recommendation and Suggestion for Further Research

In analysing and discussing the clause complex resources realising the logical meanings of the text, we have placed them within the compass of the SFL model. It is clear from our study that SFL is a highly relevant theory for this kind of research: it accommodates an extremely rich pool of tools to help us researchers, EFL teachers and students unpack the clause complex resources to uncover their logical meanings and to talk about them in a sensible way. The relevance of SFL to discourse analysis is obvious, but how far it is possible to use this model of language depends largely on how much the discourse analyst can exploit the power of this “applicable linguistics” (Halliday, 2017, p. 36). It is, therefore, recommended that discourse analysts, EFL language teachers and students explore the model carefully before starting their text-exploring journey (cf. Hoang, 1994, 2021, 2024).

In this study we have focused on exploring only clause complex resources realising logical meanings. To uncover all meanings of the text, other aspects of lexicogrammatical resources realising respective aspects of meanings of the text such as transitivity resources realising experiential meanings, mood (including modality) resources realising interpersonal meanings, theme resources realising textual meanings, and textual cohesion resources realising texture or textual cohesion meanings of the text should be explored. These are topics of future research.

As can be seen, the data for analysis of this study has been confined to only one of the forty-five chapters of the novel “A Tale of Two Cities”. To have a comprehensive picture of all aspects of lexicogrammatical resources Charles Dickens employs in the construction of meanings of his text, the entire novel should be taken as data for analysis. This can also be an interesting topic for further study.

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APPENDIX

CLAUSE SIMPLEX AND CLAUSE COMPLEX ANALYSIS

The Period

Paragraph 1

(I) ||| (1) It was the best of times, || (2) it was the worst of times, || (3) it was the age of wisdom, || (4) it was the age of foolishness, || (5) it was the epoch of belief, || (6) it was the epoch of incredulity, || (7) it was the season of Light, || (8) it was the season of Darkness, || (9) it was the spring of hope, || (10) it was the winter of despair, || (11) we had everything before us, || (12) we had nothing before us, || (13) we were all going direct to Heaven, || (14) we were all going direct the other way (II) ||| (15) - in short, the period was so far like the present period, || (16) that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. |||

Paragraph 2

|| (17) There were a king with a large jaw and a queen with a plain face, on the throne of England; || (18) there were a king with a large jaw and a queen with a fair face, on the throne of France. (III) ||| (19) In both countries it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes, || (20) that things in general were settled for ever. |||

Paragraph 3

|| (21) It was the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five. || (22) Spiritual revelations were conceded to England at that favoured period, as at this. **(IV)** || (23) Mrs Southcott had recently attained her five- and-twentieth blessed birthday, || (24) of whom a prophetic private in the Life Guards had heralded the sublime appearance by announcing that arrangements were made for the swallowing up of London and Westminster. **(V)** || (25) Even the Cock Lane ghost had been laid only a round dozen of years, || (26) after rapping out its messages, || (27) as the spirits of this very year last past (supernaturally deficient in originality) rapped out theirs. **(VI)** || (28) Mere messages in the earthly order of events had lately come to the English Crown and People, from a congress of British subjects in America: || (29) which, strange to relate, have proved more important to the human race than any communications yet received through any of the chickens of the Cock Lane brood. ||

Paragraph 4

(VII) || (30) France, less favoured on the whole as to matters spiritual than her sister of the shield and trident, rolled with exceeding smoothness down hill, || (31) making paper money || (32) and spending it. **(VIII)** || (33) Under the guidance of her Christian pastors, she entertained herself, besides, with such humane achievements as sentencing a youth to have his hands cut off, his tongue torn out with pincers, and his body burned alive, || (34) because he had not kneeled down in the rain || (35) to do honour to a dirty procession of monks which passed within his view, at a distance of some fifty or sixty yards. **(IX)** || (36) It is likely enough || (37) that, rooted in the woods of France and Norway, there were growing trees, when that sufferer was put to death, already marked by the Woodman, fate, to come down and be sawn into boards, to make a certain movable framework with a sack and a knife in it, terrible in history. **(X)** || (38) It is likely enough || (39) that in the rough outhouses of some tillers of the heavy lands adjacent to Paris, there were sheltered from the weather that very day, rude carts, bespattered with rustic mire, snuffed about by pigs, and roosted in by poultry, which the farmer, death, had already set apart to be his tumbrils of the Revolution. **(XI)** || (40) But that woodman and that farmer, || (41) though they work unceasingly, work silently, || (42) and no one heard them || (43) as they went about with muffled tread: the rather, forasmuch as to entertain any suspicion that they were awake, was to be atheistical and traitorous. ||

Paragraph 5

(XII) || (44) In England, there was scarcely an amount of order and protection || (45) to justify much national boasting. || (46) Daring burglaries by armed men, and highway robberies, took place in the capital itself every night; **(XIII)** || (47) families were publicly cautioned || (48) not to go out of town without removing their furniture to upholsterers' warehouses for security; **(XIV)** || (49) the highwayman in the dark was a City tradesman in the light, || (50) and, being recognised || (51) and challenged by his fellow-tradesman whom he stopped in his character of 'the Captain', (52) gallantly shot him through the head || (53) and rode away; **(XV)** || (54) the mail was waylaid by seven robbers, || (55) and the guard shot three dead, || (56) and then got shot dead himself by the other four, 'in consequence of the failure of his ammunition': **(XVI)** || (57) after which the mail was robbed in peace; || (58) that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made || (59) to stand and deliver on Turnham Green, by one highwayman, who despoiled the illustrious creature in sight of all his retinue; **(XVII)** || (60) prisoners in London gaols fought battles with their turnkeys, || (61) and the majesty of the law fired blunderbusses in among them, loaded with rounds of shot and ball; || (62) thieves snipped off diamond crosses from the necks of noble lords at court drawing-rooms; **(XVIII)** || (63) musketeers went into St Giles's, || (64) to search for contraband goods, || (65) and the mob fired on the musketeers, || (66) and the musketeers fired on the mob, || (67) and nobody thought any of these occurrences much out of the common way. **(XIX)** || (68) In the midst of them, the hangman, ever busy and ever worse than useless, was in constant requisition; || (69) now, stringing up long rows of miscellaneous criminals; || (70) now, hanging a housebreaker on Saturday who had been taken on Tuesday; || (71) now, burning people in the hand at Newgate by the dozen, || (72) and now burning pamphlets at the door of Westminster Hall; || (73) today, taking the life of an atrocious murderer, || (74) and tomorrow of a wretched pilferer who had robbed a farmer's boy of sixpence. ||

Paragraph 6

|| (75) All these things, and a thousand like them, came to pass in and close upon the dear old year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five. **(XX)** || (76) Environed by them, || (77) while the woodman and the farmer worked unheeded, || (78) those two of the large jaws, and those other two of the plain and the fair faces, trod with stir enough, || (79) and carried their divine rights with a high hand. || (80) Thus did the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five conduct their greatnesses, and myriads of small creatures – the creatures of this chronicle among the rest – along the roads that lay before them. ||