

Lexical Expressions of Path Motion in Vietnamese: A Perspective from Cognitive Linguistics

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to study the semantics and syntax of lexical expressions of path motion in Vietnamese. This paper is conducted on theory of lexicalization patterns which is related to the conflation of semantic components into linguistic units. The data are the expressions of motion verbs and spatial prepositions which were taken from 12 Vietnamese stories and three novels in the 20th century onward. The result of this paper presents several lexicalization patterns of semantic components conflated into the path verbs and the spatial prepositions. Moreover, this paper takes into account the construction of the grammar of the lexical expressions of path motion in Vietnamese, which refers to speakers' knowledge of motion utilized to express motion.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cognitive linguistics is an approach to the language study viewing linguistic knowledge as part of general cognition and thinking; linguistic behavior is not separated from other general cognitive abilities allowing mental processes of *reasoning*, *memory*, *attention* and *learning*, but understood as an integral part of it. Cognitive linguistics has had a profound impact on the study of language in terms of both semantics and grammar from the 1980s onward. It is holding the evidence that language is learned and processed much in the same way as other information about the world, and that the same cognitive processes are involved in language and other forms of thinking (Taylor & Littlemore, 2014, p. 1). As a result, Evans & Green (2006, p. 5) concludes that to study language from this perspective is to study patterns of conceptualization. That is, language provides windows into cognitive functions and insights into the nature, structure and organization of thoughts and ideas.

Motion is a domain in language which has been particularly attractive since it has been said to be one of the primary experiential domains in human life and bound to be lexicalized in all languages. For this reason, an investigation into motion from the perspective of cognitive linguistics is indispensable, which takes into account for the relationship between language and thought. This will shed light on the role of thought in shaping language. More importantly, this analysis will help to expound different explanations of motion from different cultures.

One of the most dominant works associated with the field is Talmy's (1985) binary typology. In this research, Talmy delved into the relationship between surface forms and semantic components. More precisely, he examined the way of how many semantic components are expressed by different surface forms and vice versa. He also termed this process as lexicalization, which means the ways experience is rendered into languages via the semantic content of lexical items that are used to express experiential categories (Talmy, 1985). He arrived at the conclusion that the relation between surface forms and semantic components is not one-to-one. That is, one semantic component could be expressed more than one surface forms and vice versa.

Talmy's seminal work has engendered a number of studies in the literature on motion event descriptions across languages over the last two decades. However, these studies mostly revolve an exploration into semantic properties of motion verbs and prepositions in isolation, hardly any studies have been devoted to an in-depth investigation into a thorough conglomerate of combination between motion verbs and spatial prepositions. This is the reason why the study with title "Lexical expressions of path motion in Vietnamese (LEsPM): A perspective from cognitive linguistics" has been chosen for the current study.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Talmy's theory of lexicalization patterns

Talmy (2000) delves into the exploration of systematic relations between semantic components and linguistic forms, in other words, into the process of lexicalization. Talmy (2000b, p. 24) posits that lexicalization is involved where a particular meaning component is found to be in regular association with a particular morpheme. Talmy shows that there are two directions which can be adopted for investigating the meaning and linguistic form relations. One direction is to keep constant a selected surface or linguistic entity, and then observe which semantic entities are variously expressed by it. Another direction is to hold particular semantic entities constant, then observe the surface or linguistic entities in which it can appear. Talmy proposes the two typologies: (i) the three-way classification (Talmy, 1985) and (ii) the two-way classification of languages (Talmy, 1991, 2000b).

2.1.1. The three-way typology

This typology stems from examining which semantic components are characteristically lexicalized in motion verbs in several languages. Three principal lexicalization types are presented by motion verbs expressing the Co-event (Manner or Cause), the Path, or the Figure. Talmy (2000b, p. 27) concludes that a language utilizes only one of these types for the motion verbs in its most characteristic expression of Motion which means that (i) it is *colloquial* in style, rather than literary; (ii) it is *frequent* in occurrence in speech, rather than only occasional; (iii) it is *pervasive*, rather than limited.

a. Lexicalization patterns: Motion + Co-event

In this expression, the verb typically denotes at once the Motion and a Co-event which are usually either the Manner or the Cause. English is one of the prototypical examples of this group. Talmy (2000b, p. 28) summarizes English expressions of Motion conflated with Manner or Cause as follows:

Move + Manner

Non-agentive

- (1) a. The rock *slid/ rolled/ bounced* down the hill.
- b. The gate *swung/ creaked* shut on its rusty hinges.
- c. The smoke *swirled/ squeezed* through the opening.

Agentive

- d. I *slid/ rolled/ bounced* the keg into the storeroom.
- e. I *twisted/ popped* the cork out of the bottle.

Self-agentive

- f. I *ran/limped/ jumped/ stumbled/ rushed/ groped* my way downstairs.
- g. She *wore* a green dress to the party.

Move + Cause

Non-agentive

- h. The napkin *blew* off the table.
- i. The bone *pulled* loose from its socket.
- j. The water *boiled* down to the midline of the pot.

Agentive

- k. I *pushed/ threw/ kicked* the keg into the storeroom.

- l. I *blew/flicked* the ant off my plate.
- m. I *chopped/sawed* the tree down to the ground at the base.
- n. I *knocked/pounded/hammered* the nail into the board with a mallet.

In this point, it is crucial to define the terms such as *agentive*, *non-agentive* and *self-agentive motion*. First, agentive motion is associated with a motion event whose Figure is moved by an agent; the agent causes the motion but the verb can denote either its Cause or the Manner in which the Figure moves. Second, non-agentive motion refers to the situations in which entities that are incapable of performing motion by themselves. Finally, self-agentive motion has to do with events in which Figure are able to move by themselves.

b. Lexicalization patterns: Motion + Path

In the second expression, the fact of Motion and Path are conflated into the motion verbs. Talmy (2000b, pp. 49-51) points out that Spanish is the most typical language whose expressions of Motion are conflated with Path. In the case of Vietnamese, there is a group of verbs termed as the directional verbs such as (e.g., *vào, ra, lên, xuống, qua, lại, tới*, etc) which conflate with the Path (Nguyễn Lai, 2001). This can be illustrated by the examples below:

Non-agentive

- (2) a. Tiếng động vang dội **vào** tận lèn đá.
- b. Bao nhiêu gánh xiếc **tới** Huế.

Agentive

- c. Lượm tụt **xuống** hồ, khéo léo lăm mới gạn được nửa ống bơ nước bùn.
- d. Một lúc sau, Mực **lại** gần tôi.

In reality, though English also has verbs which incorporate Path such as *arrive, approach, cross, ascend, circle, descend, enter, exit, follow, join, pass, rise, return*, etc., this lexicalization pattern is not characteristic. This is because these verbs are historic borrowings from Romance languages. Talmy (2000b, pp. 62,139) adds that this conflation pattern (Motion +Path) hardly expands to conflation of location with site, which is “Be-on”, “Be-under”, etc, despite the fact that English consists of some incidental cases of such conflation such as *surround* (be around), *top* (be atop), *flank* (be beside), *adjoin* (be next to), *span* (be from one side to the other) and *line* (be in line).

c. Lexicalization patterns: Motion + Figure

In this pattern, the motion verbs conflate Motion and Figure. English has got a few forms which conform to these patterns. English examples of conflation of Motion and Figure are taken from Talmy (2000b, p. 57).

Non-agentive

- (3) a. It *rained* in through the bedroom window.

Agentive

- b. I *spat* into the cuspidor.

Likewise, Vietnamese also has a few forms that conflate the two semantic components. Examine the following examples:

Non-agentive

- (4) a. Cả đội ủa hết ra sân mặc dầu trời vẫn lác rắc *mưa*.

Agentive

- b. Tên cai ngục *khạc nhổ*, đóng ập cửa lại, đập chốt sắt.

2.1.2. The two-way typology

An exploration into two-way typology is to look at the morphosyntactic constituents that characteristically encode the component of Path in a motion event. Hence, the Path component emerges in the path verbs in verb-framed languages, but it is lexicalized in the satellites in satellite-framed languages.

In this point, a satellite is the grammatical category of any constituent that is in a sister relation to the verbs (Talmy, 2000b, p. 102). In English, satellites can be prepositions (*into, out of, around, across*, etc) or particles (e.g., *up, out, away*, etc), in contrast, satellites in Vietnamese can be both the

directional verbs (e.g., *vào, ra, lên, xuống, tới, lui, về, qua, sang*, etc) and prepositions (e.g., *quang, dọc theo*).

Talmy (1991, 2000b) proposes that motion events in which Path is characteristically expressed is to an extent where aspect, change of state, action correlation and realization are characteristically encoded as well. On the other hands, the two-way typology for motion events extends to at least four types of events. Accordingly, V-framed languages characteristically lexicalize the trajectory of motion, aspect, change of state, action correlation and realization in the path verbs, whereas it is denoted by verb particles or prepositions in S-framed languages. A few of examples of English are taken from Talmy (2000b, p. 72) to illustrate these points.

Change of state

- (5) a. I blew *out* the candle.
b. I burned him *to* death.

Action correlation

- (6) a. I played the medoly *along* with him.
b. I *outplayed* him.

Some examples of Vietnamese sharing this point are examined:

Change of state

- (7) a. Xoan loạng choạng bước *ra* khỏi buồng giam.
b. Anh mừng *đến* chảy nước mắt.

Action correlation

- (8) a. Nó cầm cổ chạy *dọc theo* lề đường.
b. Các bạn bơi xúm lại *quanh* nó.

In short, in English, changes of state and action correlation are expressed with the verb particles or satellites, while the main verb encodes the Co-event (Manner or Cause). However, in Vietnamese, changes of state and action correlation can be expressed with both the path verbs (*ra, đến*) and prepositions (*dọc theo, quanh*).

2.1.3. Equipollently-framed languages

The advent of Talmy's typology of verb-and satellite-framed languages has given rise to a wide range of studies on motion event descriptions in a great number of languages. However, according to Slobin (2004) and Zlatev & Yangklang (2004) and some other authors, there are several languages which do not assort with Talmy's two-way typology because these languages encode both Manner and Path in the same linguistic forms like in the Vietnamese language.

In the attempt to account for such linguistic diversity, Slobin (2004, 2009) proposed one more typology of motion- event construction, which is termed as a tripartite typology of motion events in a so-called *equipollently-framed* language. In equipollently-framed language, Manner and Path are expressed by the equivalent grammatical forms. More precisely, the Paths in the language are both in the path verbs, prepositions or other linguistic units. This typology seems to fit into Vietnamese, thus when analyzing LEM in Vietnamese, these properties will be applied. Slobin (2006a, p. 64) suggests three subtypes of equipollently –framed languages.

a. Serial- verb languages

Serial-verb languages are those languages in which the serial verb construction is a syntactic phenomenon in which two or more verbs or verb phrases are strung together in a single clause.

b. Bipartite verb languages

Bipartite verb languages are those languages in which the verb consists of two morphemes of equal status, one expressing Manner and the other expressing Path.

c. Generic verb languages

Generic verb languages are those languages in which the verb is combined with satellite-like elements or coverbs, which encode both Path and Manner in the same fashion.

In short, English does not consist of any forms of this typology. Meanwhile, Vietnamese does not only fit into Talmy’s binary typology (verb-and satellite-framed languages), but it assorts with Slobin’s tripartite typology (equipollently-framed language) as well.

2.2. Lexical expressions of path motion

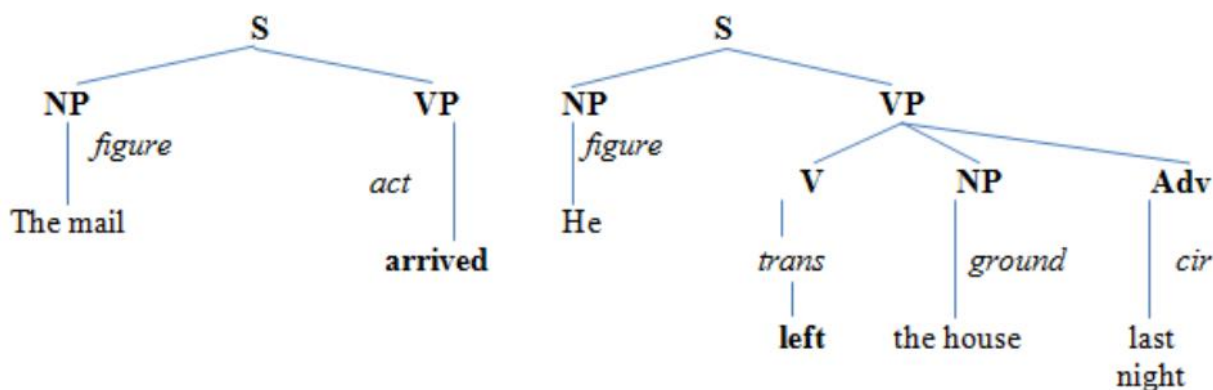
According to Lobner (2002: 9), *an expression is just a general term for words, phrases and sentences, and expression meaning covers, in particular, word meaning and sentence meaning.* Therefore, an expression may be a word (1a), a phrase (1b) or a sentence (1c) in terms of syntax.

- (9) a. walk
 b. walk to school
 c. We walk to school.

Besides, Payne (2011, p. 10) notes that there are three types of expressions in which language allows speakers to express variations and a conceptual category in meaning. He adds that lexical expression is any formal expression of a conceptual category which simply must be memorized, rather than constructed according to a pattern. Payne (ibid: 33) posits that the conceptual category in this definition describes some specific elements of meaning that speakers of a language pay special attention to in terms of grammar. For example, some conceptual categories of the verb “kick” may be understood as a dynamic verb, motion verb, transitive verb and causative verbs, etc.

In addition, Payne (2011) argues that in order to be a conceptual category, a particular element must determine some patterns of grammatical expressions, such as lexical expressions, morphological expressions and syntactical expressions. Therefore, a conceptual category can be a key element to understand the lexical expression. For example, in order to take in the lexical expression of “go to school”, it requires us to interpret the conceptual categories in this expression, such as the conceptual category of the verb “go” means the movement from somewhere towards school, and the preposition “to” means direction towards school and on the way to school, etc. More particularly, Payne supports another way to understand the conceptual category is to rely on differences in sets of roots. That is, we can identify differences in the conceptual categories of some verbs by analyzing their roots. For example, the identification of conceptual categories of “go” and “come” is based on the different roots of “go” and “come”. The verb “go” means the movement from the speaker to somewhere, and “come” from somewhere to the speaker. As a result, a lexical expression of path motion can be explicated as follows: “A lexical expression of path motion can be a word, phrase, or sentence, which expresses any formal form of a conceptual category of the path verbs and other relevant components, such figure or ground, etc. The path verbs can be transitive and intransitive verbs. When these verbs are intransitive, they generally refer to the acts of motion as in “arrive” as in (10a). Also, when they are transitive, they denote the translational motion as in “left”

- (10) a. The mail **arrived**.
 b. He **left** the house last night.



LEs PM in Vietnamese can be schematized as follows.

| A Lexical Expression of Path Motion | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Subject | Predicate of path motion | | |
| | VP | | Periphery |
| <i>He</i> | <i>left</i> | <i>the house</i> | <i>early last night</i> |
| Figure | Motion, path | Ground | Circumstance |
| Arg1 | V | Arg2 | Arg3 |
| A path motion event | | | |

Figure 1: The Schematization of LEsPM

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Data preparation

The short stories and novels were written in Vietnamese, which are both popular in the contemporary century and written by the different writers in terms of distinct ages and cultures from the 19th century onwards. These stories were coded from **VS01** to **VS12**. These stories and novels were read through to pick up the sentences containing the path verbs and spatial prepositions. These stories and novels were collected which satisfied the three following purposes inquiries: (i) by different authors; (ii) in different historical contexts; and (iii) in different styles.

Table 1. Titles of Vietnamese stories and novels

| N ₀ | Titles of stories | Authors | Code | Year |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|------|
| 1 | Sống mòn | Nam Cao | VS 01 | 1956 |
| 2 | Vợ nhặt | Kim Lân | VS 02 | 1962 |
| 3 | Bát khuất | Nguyễn Đức Thuận | VS 03 | 1967 |
| 4 | Tuổi thơ dữ dội | Phùng Quán | VS 04 | 1968 |
| 5 | Dấu chân người lính | Nguyễn Minh Châu | VS 05 | 1972 |
| 6 | Sông núi Điện Biên | Trần Lê Văn | VS 06 | 1979 |
| 7 | Bí mật của một võ sĩ | Nguyễn Nhật Ánh | VS 07 | 1989 |
| 8 | Ăn mày dĩ vãng | Chu Lai | VS 08 | 1991 |
| 9 | Phố nhà binh | Chu Lai | VN 09 | 1992 |
| 10 | Người không cô đơn | Minh Chuyên | VS 10 | 1995 |
| 11 | Ông già và đầu sĩ | Trần Văn Thước | VS 11 | 1998 |
| 12 | Chút phần của đời | Nguyễn Khải | VS 12 | 1999 |

3.2. Data analysis

After the data are collected, the researcher began to analyze the data according to these approaches; they helped the researcher identify procedures to collect the data, analyze the data and to locate the problems of the study, as well.

3.2.1. Quantitative approach

First, the quantitative approach ratifies the completion of a statistical analysis helping to provide essential statistical evidence for the generalization of common features of LEsPM in Vietnamese. It is first used to figure out the frequency of motion verbs in LEsPM so that we can arrive at a conclusion on what is the typical property of LEsPM. Also, it is harnessed to discover the most

commonly used linguistic properties of LEsPM. The findings are crucial in providing an in-depth interpretation of LEsPM.

3.2.2. Qualitative approach

The *qualitative technique* plays a crucial part in this research. First, the qualitative method helped the researcher to identify research steps and procedures from the theories of cognitive linguistics and the previous studies on analyzing motion. Then, these steps and procedures enabled the researcher to select the data by reading through the English stories. The data analyses would, then, allow the researcher to identify the properties of verbs in LEsPM. Afterward, LEsPM continued to be analyzed to find out theories and hypothesis including the syntactic and semantic features.

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This section is concerned with the semantic and syntactic properties of LEsPM in Vietnamese. The syntactic properties are conducted on the basis of the theory of grammar construction related to the form and meaning relation. Next, the semantic properties are associated with the lexicalization patterns of semantic components mapped on the surface forms.

4.1. Construction grammar of LEsPM in Vietnamese

This part explores the form-meaning correspondences of LEsPM in Vietnamese. This exploration includes: (i) the arguments arranged around the path verbs; and (ii) the information of different situations packed in the path verbs.

4.1.2. Argument Structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese

Table 2 summarizes the argument structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which is grouped into four categories; (i) numbers of arguments in each expression, (ii) types of arguments; (iii) the number of verbs; and (iv) distribution of each type.

Table 2. Argument structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese

| Number of Args | Argument structures | Verbs | % |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| 1 | a. V[Figure] | 18 | 47.3 |
| 2 | b.V[Figure Place] | 11 | 28.9 |
| | c.V[Figure Ground] | 23 | 60.5 |
| 3 | d. V[Figure Path] | 17 | 44.7 |
| | e.V[Figure Ground Manner] | 9 | 23.6 |

a. V [Figure]

The path verbs in this structure are the intransitive path verbs because they have one argument of the Figure. This structure denotes that the motion of the Figure is considered a result, but not a process. As a result, the Ground as well the Path is not mentioned. There are 18 path verbs, making up 47.3%, found in the data (e.g., *biến khỏi, co quắp, để, đến gần, đi, đi đâu, đi khỏi, hạ cánh, lên, lùi, nhập cư, ra, tản cư, tới, trở lại, trốn thoát, vào* and *xuống*) in this structure. Take (5.21) as an example, in which *Em* is the Figure and *đi* is motion.

(11) Em không **đi**.

b. V [Figure Place]

This structure denotes that the motion takes place in harmony with the Ground. In other words, the Figure's motion is limited by that Ground, so this structure does not include the Path and Ground. There are 11 path verbs found in the data, occupying 28, 9%, in this structure (e.g., *đạo, đi, đột*

kích, gục, hạ cánh, lùi, ra, trốn thoát and vào) with two arguments such as the Figure *một bóng người* and the Place *trong ngõ*.

(12) Bỗng *một bóng người* cứng nhắc xông xôc **vào** *trong ngõ*.

c. V [Figure Ground]

There are 23 the path verbs, making up 60.5% consisting of two arguments, which are the Figure and the Ground. Thus, these path verbs are the transitive path verbs (e.g., *bỏ xa, cập, cúi, dạo, đến, đến gần, đi, đi khỏi, đột kích, ghé, lại, lên, lùi, qua, ra, theo đuổi, tới, trèo, trở lại, trốn thoát, vào* and *xuống*). This structure denotes that a Figure *đò* is moving toward the Ground *bến làng Trờ*.

(13) Tảng sáng, đò **cập** *bến làng Trờ*.

d. V [Figure Path]

This structure has two arguments, which are the Figure and the Path. In this structure, the Figure refers to the moving object and the Path refers to the direction of motion. The Figure and the Path of motion are more prominent, so the Ground is not mentioned. This expression consists of 17 verbs, making up 44.7% (e.g., *chum, chụm, co, cúi, co quắp, doãi, đi, ghé, gục, khếp, khuyễn, khuyễn, lùi, ngã, ngoảnh, quay* and *ưỡn*).

(14) Đi khỏi mấy bước rồi chị còn **ngoảnh** *lại* nhìn tôi.

e. V [Figure Ground Manner]

This structure consists of three arguments including Figure, Ground and Manner in which the Figure denotes the moving object and the Ground denotes the place which the Figure is moving toward. In this case, the path verbs simultaneously denote the direction and the Manner. There are 9 path verbs in Vietnamese found in the data, occupying 23.6% (e.g., *dạo, doãi, đi, ghé, khuyễn, qua, ra, tới* and *trở lại*). The verb *ghé* in the following example expresses both the motion and the manner which is not the not official visiting or in a short-timed visiting.

(15) Một chuyến anh được quay trở ra hậu phương và **ghé** nhà.

4.1.2. Event structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese

Table 3 summaries the event structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which is grouped into three categories such as (i) types of events; (ii) semantic features; and (iii) the path verbs denoting each of events.

Table 3. Event structures of LEsPP in Vietnamese

| Event structures | Verbs | % |
|---|-----------|------------|
| a. States Atelic + Stages | 0 | 0 |
| b. Activities Atelic - Stages | 10 | 26.3 |
| c. Achievements Telic - Stages | 26 | 68.4 |
| d. Accomplishments Telic +Stages | 2 | 5.2 |
| Total | 38 | 100 |

a. Event of States

This event refers to the two semantic features such as Atelic and –Stages. The first feature refers to the motion which does not need to contain an endpoint. The second feature postulates that the event of States is stative situations. As a result, there are no verbs found in the data denoting this event.

b. Event of Activities

This event has two semantic features such as Atelic and -Stages. First, the Atelic feature depicts that the path verbs do not require an endpoint, so the path verbs denoting event are generally the intransitive path verbs. Next, the –Stages feature refers to dynamic situations in which the path verbs can denote the continuous motion. There are 10 path verbs (26.3%) (e.g., *chúm, co, doãi, đạo, co quắp* and *hạ cánh*, etc) found in the data.

c. Event of Achievements

The event of Achievements denotes that the Figure of motion is necessary to move toward the Ground. In other words, the path verbs always consist of an endpoint and are transitive verbs as in (17). The –Stage property means that this is dynamic motion, which can be a continuous motion at a certain time. This is the most common event in Vietnamese including 26 path verbs, making up 68.4% (e.g., *biển khỏi, bỏ xa, cúi, đi khỏi, đột kích, ghé* and *ngả*, etc).

(17) Anh sẽ **ngả** con chó nằm ngửa trên một tấm nỉ lông.

d. Event of Accomplishments

The last event denotes the motion with an endpoint and an undynamic situation. This event is the least common in Vietnamese, which have 2 path verbs (e.g., *khuyênh* and *trốn thoát*) found in the data denoting this event.

4.2. Lexicalization patterns of LEsPM in Vietnamese

This section is concerned with the lexicalization patterns of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which will elucidate semantic components conflated into the path verbs such as Path, Manner and Ground and spatial adpositions such as directions and vectors. This is an answer to the question *what are lexicalization patterns of LEsMM in VN?*

4.2.1. Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs in Vietnamese

Table 4 summarizes the lexicalization patterns of the semantic components conflated into the path verbs, which are Manner, Path and Ground.

Table 4. Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs in Vietnamese

| Number of components | | Lexicalization patterns | Verbs | % |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Types of components | | | | |
| 2 | external | a. Motion +Path | 23 | 60.5 |
| | | Total | 23 | 60.5 |
| 3 | external | b. Motion + Path + Manner | 12 | 31.5 |
| | | c. Motion + Path + Ground | 3 | 7.8 |
| | | Total | 15 | 39.5 |
| 4 | external | d. Motion + Path+ Ground+ Manner | 0 | 0 |
| | | Total | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | 38 | 100 |

a. Lexicalization Patter: Motion +Path

In this expression, two semantic components are conflated into the path verbs, which are Motion and Path. There are 23 verbs, making up 60.5% (e.g., *biển khỏi, bỏ xa, đạo* and *đến*, etc). In general, the path verbs in this expression simultaneously denote the motion of the Figure and the path of the motion from the starting point to the Ground as in (18).

(18) Không một thằng địch nào dám **đến** gần cái đồng đất ấy!

b. Lexicalization Patterns: Motion + Path + Manner

This expression consists of three semantic components, which are Motion, Path and Manner. There are 12 verbs (31.5%) found in the data denoting this expression (e.g., *chum*, *co*, *cùm*, *ưỡn* and *khuyễnh*, etc). Take the verb *ưỡn* as an example; the path verb denotes that the Motion is the Figure's change of position from one place to another. Next, the Path is the route path which the Figure moves along. Last, the Manner is mostly concerned with the style of motion of the chest.

(19) Nổi xung, em cầm lấy chim, **ưỡn** người trể về phía bọn giặc.

c. Lexicalization Patterns: Motion + Path + Ground

There are three semantic components conflated into the path verbs, namely Motion, Path and Ground. There are three verbs, making up 7.8% found in the data (e.g., *cập*, *hạ cánh* and *nhập cư*). These path verbs denote that the Figure moves from one position to another along a path *xuống* toward the Ground as in (20).

(20) Tại sao máy bay vận tải lẻ tẻ còn **hạ cánh** xuống sân bay được?

d. Lexicalization Patterns: Motion + Path + Ground + Manner

The four semantic components conflated in the path verbs, which are Motion, Path, Ground and Manner. However, there are no path verbs in Vietnamese denoting four semantic components at the same time.

4.2.2. Lexicalization patterns of Path in Vietnamese

This section is concerned with an investigation into the semantic components in terms of directions conflated into the path verbs in Vietnamese. Such directions are determined by the relative position between the Figure and Ground. Table 5 summarizes thirteen types of directions between the Figure and the Ground conflated into Vietnamese path verbs.

Table 5. Lexicalization patterns of the paths in Vietnamese

| Lexicalization patterns | Verbs | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| a. V+ Away from G | 7 | 18.4 |
| b. V+ UP/onto G-Upwards | 2 | 5.2 |
| c. V+ After G | 1 | 2.6 |
| d. V+ Change direction | 3 | 7.9 |
| e. V+ Down from/to G- Downwards | 5 | 13.1 |
| f. V+ To/towards G | 4 | 10.5 |
| g. V+ Back to G- Backwards | 3 | 7.9 |
| h. V+ Pass/cross G | 1 | 2.6 |
| i. V+ Into G | 7 | 18.4 |
| j. V+ Closer to G | 1 | 2.6 |
| k. V+ Forwards G | 1 | 2.6 |
| l. V+ Out of G | 1 | 2.6 |
| m. V+ Multiple direction | 2 | 5.2 |
| Total | 38 | 100 |

a. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Away from G

The path verbs denoting this direction consists of 7 path verbs (18.4%) found in the data such as *biển khỏi*, *bỏ xa*, *doãi*, *khuyễnh*, *tản cư*, *trốn thoát*, and *đi khỏi*. These verbs denote that the Figure is moving away from the Ground. For instance, Figure *Hai người*, at first, is at the place of the Ground *Xiêm*, but the Figure separated from the Ground and moved away from the Ground *đi khỏi*.

(21) Hai người vừa **đi khỏi** Xiêm đã sập hết các phen cửa.

b. Lexicalization pattern: V+ UP/onto G-Upwards

The verbs with this direction denote that the Figure moves from a low position to a higher position. There are two path verbs (5.2%) which denote this direction such as *lên* and *trèo*. The verb *lên* expresses the direction of motion from a low position to a higher position; meanwhile, the verb *trèo* provides some more specific information about motion such as from a low position to a higher position, a vertical direction, an animate Figure and motion with legs and arms as in (22).

(22) Lượng **trèo** (lên) những bậc đá.

c. Lexicalization pattern: V+ After G

There is only one verb *theo* denoting this Path found in the data in Vietnamese. This verb denotes that Figure *Chị em* is moving after the Ground *Bộ đội* which may (not) be moving at the same time.

(23) Chị em chỉ có thể bố trí từng tốp **theo** Bộ đội.

d. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Change direction

The verbs such as *quay*, *ngoảnh* and *nghé* denote that the Figure is moving according to a certain direction but urgently changes its direction. The verbs *quay* and *ngoảnh* reveals that the second direction is completely opposite to the first direction as in (24a). The verb *ghé* means the Figure may turn left or turn right, so the Figure in this expression must be agentive subject as in (24b).

(24) a. Kinh **quay** người và nói nhỏ hơn.

b. thấy rứa, nó cũng tò mò **ghé** lại coi chút cho biết.

e. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Down from/to G- Downwards

There are six verbs (15.7%) denoting this direction found in the data such as *xuống*, *ngả*, *khuyu*, *hạ cánh*, *gục* and *cúi*. The verb *hạ cánh* denotes the vertical direction from a high position to a low position, but other verbs do not. More specially, the Figure of the verb *hạ cánh* must be a type of machine like planes. The verbs *xuống*, *ngả*, *cúi* and *khuyu* denote the directions of the curve.

f. Lexicalization pattern: V+ To/towards G

The verbs with this direction denote mean that the Figure is moving in the direction of the Ground and approaching it. There are four verbs of Vietnamese path verbs (10.5%) found in the data denoting this direction, namely *tới*, *đi*, *đi đầu*, and *đến*. There is a difference between the verb *đi* and *đến*. The verb *đi* denotes that the Figure moves from the speaker to the hearer, but the verb *đến* from the hearer to the speaker. More specially, the verb *đi đầu* depicts that Figure is standing in the first position and moving in the direction of the Ground.

g. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Back to G- Backwards

The verbs with this direction posit that the Figure is at the same place as the Ground, and then the Figure is moving towards the Ground. There are three path verbs (7.8%) found in the data, namely *lùi*, *lại* and *trở lại*. The verbs *lùi* and *lại* express the direction of the Figure towards the Ground while the verb *trở lại* does not only denote the direction of the Figure but the starting point and the destination as well.

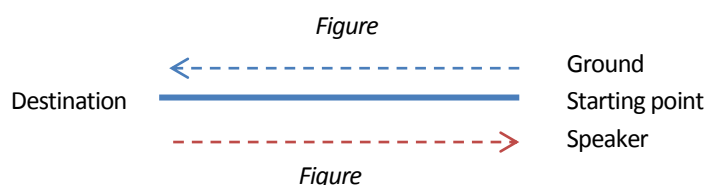


Figure 2. The direction conflated into the verb *trở lại*

h. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Pass/cross G

There is one verb (2.6%) denoting this direction in Vietnamese, which is *qua* (*băng qua*). This direction means that the Figure (the arrow) may move from one side to another of the Ground as Figure 3, move into at one side and out of at another side of the Ground as Figure 3, or move parallel with the Ground as Figure 3c. In this expression, the sides of the Ground play an important

role in determining the starting point as well as endpoint of motion, especially the limitation of Figure's movement. In reality, the Ground plays a role as the Path.

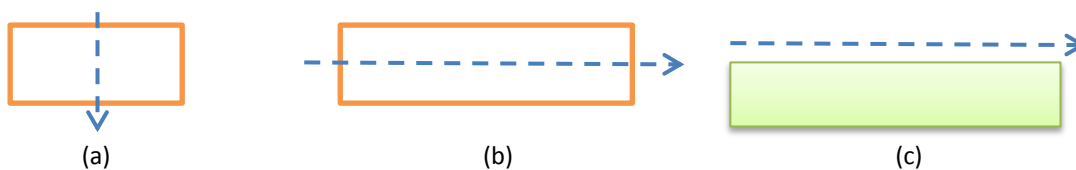


Figure 3. The direction conflated into the verb *qua*

i. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Into G

There are seven path verbs (18.4%) found in the data denoting this direction, namely *vào*, *nhập cư*, *co quắp*, *co*, *chùm*, *chúm* and *cập*. The verb *vào* denotes the direction from the outside part to the inside part of the Ground. The verbs *co quắp*, *co*, *chùm* and *chúm* express the Figure's change of size, which is normally from big size to a smaller size. Next, for the case of the verb *nhập cư*, the Figure must be the agentive subject, which moves from a country into another. Finally, the verb *cập* refers to the Figure's motion from the open sea or river to the shore or harbor.

j. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Closer to G

The verb with this direction denotes that the Figure is nearing the Ground. There is only one path verb *khép* expressing this direction found in the data, making up 2.6%. In this case, there are generally two Figures, which move coincidentally.

k. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Forwards G

There is one word found in the data denoting this direction, which is *đến gần*. When denoting this direction, the Ground is considered to be the destination or the target for the Figure which is moving towards nearer and nearer the Ground from the distance.

l. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Out of G

Opposite to the direction *into G*, the verb with this direction expresses the Figure's motion from the inside area to the outside area, and the Ground is regarded as the container. To put it simply, the starting of motion will be certainly inside of the container and the endpoint must be outside the Ground. In addition, this motion is conceptualized as moving from a covered area to an open area. There is one verb found in the data which denotes this direction (*ra*), which posits that the Figure normally moves from a small area to a larger one as in (25).

(25) Cả đội ùa hết **ra** sân mặc dầu trời vẫn lác rắc mưa.

m. Lexicalization pattern: V+ Multiple directions

This verb denoting this direction normally consists of many Figures at the same time, and each of Figures moves in different directions. There are two verbs (5.2%) with this direction found in the data, which are *dạo* and *đi khỏi*.

5. CONCLUSION

This paper is associated with an investigation into the syntax and semantics of LEsM in Vietnamese. In terms of the syntax, LEsM is analyzed on the theory of construction grammar which points out speakers' knowledge of LEsM including argument structures and event structures. In the first place, the argument structures of LEsM are concerned with the syntactic aspects of the path verbs. To be more precisely, the arrangement of motion elements (e.g., *Figure*, *Ground*, *Path* and *Motion*) with motion verbs. In this paper, there are five argument structures which were found in the data. Next, the event structures of LEsM pertain to the lexical aspects of path verbs. That means, an investigation into the

components of lexical meanings conflated into the path verbs in Vietnamese was conducted. Semantically speaking, this paper does with theory of lexicalization patterns which refers to the conflation of semantic components in motion events are lexicalized into the path verbs. More particularly, this paper also delves into the conflation of semantic components into the spatial prepositions.

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APPENDIX

LEXICAL EXPRESSIONS OF PATH MOTION (LEsPM) in VIETNAMESE

I. Lexicalization patterns of Semantic components

* 1= Motion + Path

* 3= Motion + Path + Ground

* 2= Motion + Path + Manner

* 4= Motion +Path + Ground + Manner

II. Lexicalization patterns of Paths

* 1= Away from G

* 5= Down from/ to G-Downwards

* 9 = Into G

* 13= Multiple directions

* 2= Up/ Onto G-Upwards

* 6= To/ towards G

* 10= Closer to G

* 3 = After G

* 7= Back to G/ Backwards

*11= Forwards

* 4= Change direction

* 8= Pass/ Cross G

*12= Out of G

III. Argument Structures

* 1= V [Figure]

* 3= V [Figure Ground]

* 2= V [Figure Place]

* 4=V [Figure Path]

* 5=V [Figure Ground Manner]

IV. Event Structures

a. Types of events

* 1= Events of States

* 3= Events of Accomplishments

* 2= Events of Activities

* 4= Events of Achievements

b. Types of motion

*1= Translational motion

* 2= Self-contained Motion

| Path Verbs | Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs | | | | Lexicalization patterns of Paths | | | | | | | | | | | | | Argument Structures | | | | | Event Structures | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|--|
| | M P | M P M | M P G | M P G M | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Types of events | | | | Types of motion | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biển khô | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Bỏ xa | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Qua | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Ngoảnh | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Quay | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Ra | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Tản cư | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Theo | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Tới | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Trèo | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Trở lại | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Trón thoát | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Vào | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Xuống | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Uốn | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 38 | 23 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 11 | 23 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 30 | 8 |