WORD-GROUP DENOTING A DIRECTION OF MOTION
IN CONTEMPORARY VIETNAMESE

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Introduction

The word-group denoting a direction of motion in contemporary Vietnamese, as one of the objects of study, has been attracting the attention of many Vietnamese and foreign linguists. In this report we try to penetrate deeper into the process of determining and understanding the essence of this group concerning its formation and development.

1. The concept of direction of motion (relating to the word-group denoting the direction of motion\(^1\)) is defined and explained in opposition to the static direction (also called "punctual direction"). Static direction in Vietnamese is closely linked to words like trên (on), dưới (under), trong (in), ngoài (out). Static direction is linked to the knowledge of the homology of spatial dimensions through a relative comparison by a speaker not in motion. The direction of motion, on the contrary, is formed in connection with the knowledge of the homology of spatial dimensions through the relative comparison of a speaker in motion. So, we may conclude that words denoting a motion appear as a result of a process of cognition of a form of motion in which the aim in space the speaker is moving to is constantly in opposition (in some form or other) to the point departure.

2. From the nominal angle and the principle of inductive transformation from "diachrony to synchrony", linked to the process of development of cognitive thought, following is the indispensable premise for the process of formation of this word-group: a) Knowledge of the dynamic activities linked to the motion operations expressed by the motion verb group like chạy (to run), bò (to crawl), bước (to walk), bay (to fly); b) knowledge of relations concerning spatial dimensions (realised by the word-group denoting spatial dimensions...
like cao (high), tháp (low), rồng (broad), hẹp (narrow), trên (on), dưới (under), trong (in), ngoài (outside).
One should stress: the knowledge of motion direction (linked to the word-group denoting the motion direction) cannot be formed without the knowledge of the homology of spatial dimensions and relations in the actual space and inversely, even if knowledge of motion exists. The principle of this semantical induction can be expressed as below:

Concept of MOTION linked to the word-group di, chạy, bò, bước, bay...

Concept of MOTION DIRECTION
linked to the group ra, vào, lên, xuống...

Concept of SPATIAL DIMENSIONS linked to the word-group cao, tháp, rồng, hẹp, trên.
dưới, trong, ngoài...

Language is premise      Dynamics of thought, whose activity is oriented   Language is result (as well premise of the process of cognition

This principle of semantical induction helps us to grasp this difference: though on the synchronical axis, the word-group denoting motion direction (ra, vào, lên xuống) and that denoting motion (di, chạy, bò, bước, bay) as well as that denoting spatial dimensions exist on the same level, from the synchronical viewpoint the first group cannot appear before the two other ones.

3. On the other hand, we cannot speak of formation process of these word groups without connecting them to concrete typological characteristics. If we compare Vietnamese (as well as a number of languages of the same typology) with a number of languages of the Indo-European family, we see that in Vietnamese (as in Chinese, Khmer, Thai...) the concept of motion-direction on the terrain is linked to the sign of a full word in its form which may be used at the same time as an affixal element (like auf, ab, aus, ein... c, b, bz... in Indo-
European languages) and as a kernel in a combination denoting a motion in space. On the contrary in Indo-European languages this concept for the most part is expressed only by an affix, and these affixes cannot become independent kernels in the structure. Inversely, many concepts which may have the form of a full word and become kernels in the structure, cannot act as affixal elements in Vietnamese (for example: to come, 'comer, arriver...)

So, we may conclude: the morphological identity between the stem and the affix, the fusion between the motion factor and the direction factor from the semantical viewpoint are two inseparable aspects determining the most basic characteristic of word groups denoting the direction of motion Vietnamese.

4. When studying the possible morphological differences in the word group denoting the motion direction, we find that *di* (to go) is the unique word, whose meaning shifts from that denoting motion to that denoting direction: Em bé, tắp di (the baby learns how to walk (motion). Nam di H`a N`oi (Nam goes to H`a N`oi (direction).

In our opinion, *di* (verb of motion) stresses the physiological and physical aspect, and its proper meaning is more inclined to the action in itself than linked to a purposeful action. Thus it is not accidental that the syntactic structure model does not directly combine with the spatial aim: Em bé tắp DI (the baby tries to walk). If we add an expression denoting a place in space which is not a purpose, *di* does not change its character: Em bé tắp di TRONG PHONG (the baby learns to walk in the room). But if this place in space is a purpose (Em bé tắp di VÀO PHÀNG (the baby learns to go into the room), its character begins to change: the shade of a motion with "two legs" in *di* (Em bé tắp DI vào phòng) is no longer the unique factor which attracts the attention of the listener. On the contrary, the hearer's attention on the motion is relegated to a role of secondary importance by the information of an aim in space (or by effect of saturation, the information concerning the change of place be making use of two legs loses its concrete character to merge into that of a motion direction linked to an aim. In this approach, we should pay particular attention to the factor of the hearer of the information who effectively contributes
to the determination of the final result of the information. By the pressure of the aim in space given in the context, the factor of a change of place "by making use of two legs" is wiped out and from semantical viewpoint there appears a "rapprochement" between di (denoting a change of place) and di (denoting a motion-direction)

From a more generalizing angle through these activities we explain the very close relationship between the categories: motion-direction-aim. A study of this relationship will show that these categories are for the most part not isolated, independent, but are closely connected with man's practical activities, especially purposeful motions in space in which direction becomes an indispensable spatial category. (Bước VÀO nhà (to walk into the house). Chay RA đường (to run out in the street). Trèo LÊN gác (to climb upstairs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>motion</th>
<th>direction</th>
<th>aim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buóc  (to walk)</td>
<td>VÀO (into)</td>
<td>nhà (house)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chây (to run)</td>
<td>RA (out)</td>
<td>đường (street)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trèo (to climb)</td>
<td>LÊN (up)</td>
<td>gác (story)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The logical relationship between the above-mentioned categories contributes to the explanation of the intermediary characteristic of the syntactical place bound to the sememes of words denoting motion direction and having the character of words denoting a relation.

5. Words denoting the motion direction in places as determined above, have the character of words denoting a relation (whose concrete appellation is adverb with prepositional meaning ("Adverb mit prapositionaler bedeutung") and contain two main sememes denoting direction and motion. The sememe denoting motion exists in an organic relation to that denoting direction, i.e. motion exists only in close relationship with the activity of motion in space. In particular, the sememe denoting direction here does not contain any concrete, definite manner regarding motion. Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rắn (snake)</th>
<th>BỘ (to crawl)</th>
<th>VÀO(into) hang(hole)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>direction...</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motion ......</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manner ......</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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