

A COMPARISON OF NOMINALISATION BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND THAI

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1. Introduction

Word-formation (in Vietnamese and Thai) of forming a noun from verbs is rather similar. The nominalised nouns become a noun phrase which can be either the subject or object of a clause. The Vietnamese groups of nominalisers will be presented firstly and then followed by the Thai groups of nominalisers.

Crystal (1992:234) states that “Nominalisation refers to the process of forming a noun from some other word-class or the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause...”.

2. Vietnamese

In Vietnamese, a lexical unit which can be the verb is nominalised by adding a *nominalising marker* before the verb. Most of the Vietnamese nominalised verbs convey a state of mind or an emotion. A few convey a state resulting from an action. There are 8 nominalising markers in Vietnamese, as follows:

1) *cái* /ka:j⁵/ can nominalises the lexical unit which can be the stative verbs conveying an action, natural characteristics or the process of work. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

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| (1) xấu /saw ⁵ / | ‘ugly’ |
| (2) cái xấu /ka:j ⁵ saw ⁵ / | ‘ugliness’ |
| (3) đẹp /đep ⁶ / | ‘beautiful’ |
| (4) cái đẹp /ka:j ⁵ đep ⁶ / | ‘beauty’ |
| (5) ăn mặc /an ¹ mak ⁶ / | ‘dress oneself’ |
| (6) cái ăn cái mặc /ka:j ⁵ an ¹ ka:j ⁵ mak ⁶ / | ‘food and clothes’ |
| (7) bắt tay /bat ⁵ taj ¹ / | ‘shake hands’ |
| (8) cái bắt tay /ka:j ⁵ bat ⁵ taj ¹ / | ‘handshake’ |

- (9) tốt /tot⁵/ 'good'
 (10) cái tốt /ka:j⁶ tot⁵/ 'goodness'

2) *nụ* /nu⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the action verbs. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

- (11) cười /kwəj²/ 'to laugh'
 (12) **nụ** cười /nu⁶ kwəj²/ 'a laugh'
 (13) hôn /hon¹/ 'to kiss'
 (14) **nụ** hôn /nu⁶ hon¹/ 'a kiss'

3) *cơn* /kən¹/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the natural phenomena verbs and certain intransitive verbs. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

- (15) bão /bɑ:w⁴/ 'to be stormy'
 (16) **cơn** bão /kən¹ bɑ:w⁴/ 'a storm'
 (17) sốt /sot⁵/ 'be warm, be high in temperature'
 (18) **cơn** sốt /kən¹ sot⁵/ 'warmth'
 (19) giận /zɛn⁶/ 'be angry'
 (20) **cơn** giận /kən¹ zɛn⁶/ 'anger'
 (21) hoạn nạn /hwan⁶ nan⁶/ 'distress'
 (22) **cơn** hoạn nạn /kən¹ hwan⁶ nan⁶/ 'a period of misfortune'
 (23) gió /zɔ⁵/ 'be windy'
 (24) **cơn** gió /kən¹ zɔ⁵/ 'wind'
 (25) mưa /mwə¹/ 'be rainy'
 (26) **cơn** mưa /kən¹ mwə¹/ 'rain'

4) *niềm* /niəm²/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the certain positive psychological verbs. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

- (27) vui /vuj¹/ 'glad, joyful'
 (28) **niềm** vui /niəm² vuj¹/ 'joy'

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| (29) | kiêu hãnh /kiəw ² haŋ ⁴ / | ‘proud of’ |
| (30) | niềm kiêu hãnh /niəm ² kiəw ² haŋ ⁴ / | ‘pride’ |
| (31) | tự hào /tu ⁶ ha:w ² / | ‘proud of’ |
| (32) | niềm tự hào /niəm ² tu ⁶ ha:w ² / | ‘pride’ |
| (33) | hy vọng /hi ¹ vɔŋ ⁶ / | ‘to hope’ |
| (34) | niềm hy vọng /niəm ² hi ¹ vɔŋ ⁶ / | ‘hope’ |
| (35) | tin /tin ¹ / | ‘to believe’ |
| (36) | niềm tin /niəm ² tin ¹ / | ‘believe’ |

5) *nỗi* /noʔoj⁴/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be some negative psychological verbs. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

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| (37) | buồn /buən ² / | ‘be sad’ |
| (38) | nỗi buồn /noj ⁴ buən ² / | ‘sadness’ |
| (39) | nhớ /nɔ ⁵ / | ‘to remember, to miss’ |
| (40) | nỗi nhớ /noj ⁴ nɔ ⁵ / | ‘nostalgia’ |

6) *việc* /viək⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the transitive verbs indicating personal obligations. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

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| (41) | học hành /hɔk ⁶ haŋ ² / | ‘to learn’ |
| (42) | việc học hành /viək ⁶ hɔk ⁶ haŋ ² / | ‘learning, behavior’ |
| (43) | học tập /hɔk ⁶ tɒp ⁶ / | ‘to study’ |
| (44) | việc học tập /viək ⁶ hɔk ⁶ tɒp ⁶ / | ‘study’ |
| (45) | chăm sóc /cam ¹ sɔk ⁵ / | ‘look after, take care of’ |
| (46) | việc chăm sóc /viək ⁶ cam ¹ sɔk ⁵ / | ‘looking after, care’ |

7) *sự* /su⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be a variety of verbs indicating things, phenomena, events and psychological status. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

- (47) sống /soŋ⁵/ 'to live'
 (48) **sự, cuộc** sống /su⁶.kuək⁶ soŋ⁵/ 'life'
 (49) ủng hộ /uŋ³ ho⁶/ 'to support, back up'
 (50) **sự** ủng hộ /su⁶ uŋ³ ho⁶/ 'support'
 (51) **giàu có** /zaw² kɔ⁵/ 'rich'
 (52) **sự** giàu có /su⁶ zaw² kɔ⁵/ 'wealth'
 (53) **xấu xa** /sɔw⁵ sa:¹/ 'ugly, bad looking'
 (54) **sự** xấu xa /su⁶ sɔw⁵ sa:¹/ 'ugliness'

In (48) **sự** sống 'life' is more general than **cuộc** sống which means the life of a specific person or group.

8) **cuộc** /kuək⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the verbs indicating the duration of the event from the beginning to the end. The verbs should have at least two people participating in the event. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

- (55) kháng chiến /xɑ:ŋ⁵ ciən⁵/ 'to resist'
 (56) **cuộc** kháng chiến /kuək⁶ xɑ:ŋ⁵ ciən⁵/ 'resistance'
 (57) khủng hoảng /xuŋ³ hwa:ŋ³/ 'crisis'
 (58) **cuộc** khủng hoảng /kuək⁶ xuŋ³ hwa:ŋ³/ 'a crisis'
 (59) gặp gỡ /ɣəp⁶ ɣə⁴/ 'to meet'
 (60) **cuộc** gặp gỡ /kuək⁶ ɣəp⁶ ɣə⁴/ 'meeting'

From the above examples, each verb type can be preceded by a certain nominaliser, except in (48) which can be preceded either **sự** or **cuộc**.

The following examples are cited from various Vietnamese magazines showing some occurrences of the nominalisation by some nominalising classifiers, as follows:

việc

- (61) Trong chợ xây một giếng đá, có
 in market construct one well stone have
 PP V NP V NP