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) cáì /kaːj/ 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.

(1) xâu /səw/ ‘ugly’
(2) cáì xâu /kaːj səw/ ‘ugliness’
(3) dep /dɛp/ ‘beautiful’
(4) cáì dep /kaːj dɛp/ ‘beauty’
(5) ăn mắc /an¹ mak/ ‘dress oneself’
(6) cáì ăn cáì mắc /kaːj an¹ kaːj mak/ ‘food and clothes’
(7).bat tay /bat⁵ taj¹/ ‘shake hands’
(8) cáì bat tay /kaːj bat⁵ taj¹/ ‘handshake’
(9) tót /tot⁵/ ‘good’
(10) cái tót /kaːj⁶ tot⁵/ ‘goodness’

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

(11) cuōi /kuəj²/ ‘to laugh’
(12) nu cuōi /nu⁶ kuəj²/ ‘a laugh’
(13) hōn /hon¹/ ‘to kiss’
(14) nu hōn /nu⁶ hon¹/ ‘a kiss’

3) con /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) bāo /baːw⁴/ ‘to be stormy’
(16) con bāo /kən¹ baːw⁴/ ‘a storm’
(17) sōt /sot⁵/ ‘be warm, be high in temperature’ ‘warmth’
(18) con sōt /kən¹ sot⁵/ ‘warth’
(19) giān /zən⁶/ ‘be angry’
(20) con giān /kən¹ zən⁶/ ‘anger’
(21) hoān nān /hwan⁶ nān⁶/ ‘distress’
(22) con hoān nān /kən¹ hwān⁶ nān⁶/ ‘a period of misfortune’
(23) giō /z̞ō⁵/ ‘be windy’
(24) con giō /kən¹ z̞ō⁵/ ‘wind’
(25) muā /muə¹/ ‘be rainy’
(26) con muā /kən¹ muə¹/ ‘rain’

4) niēm /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) niēm vui /niəm² vuj¹/ ‘joy’
(29) kiều hành /kiou² han⁴/  ‘proud of’
(30) niêm kiều hành /niəm² kiou² han⁴/  ‘pride’
(31) tự hào /tu⁶ ha:w²/  ‘proud of’
(32) niêm tự hào /niəm² tu⁶ ha:w²/  ‘pride’
(33) hy vọng /hi¹ von⁶/  ‘to hope’
(34) niêm hy vọng /niəm² hi¹ von⁶/  ‘hope’
(35) tin /tin¹/  ‘to believe’
(36) niêm tin /niəm² tin¹/  ‘believe’

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

(37) buồn /buon²/  ‘be sad’
(38) nội buồn /noj⁴ buon²/  ‘sadness’
(39) nhỏ /no⁵/  ‘to remember, to miss’
(40) nội nhỏ /noj⁴ no⁵/  ‘nostalgia’

6) việc /viok⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the transitive verbs indicating personal obligations. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

(41) học hành /hok⁶ han²/  ‘to learn’
(42) việc học hành /viok⁶ hok⁶ han²/  ‘learning, behavior’
(43) học tập /hok⁶ tap⁶/  ‘to study’
(44) việc học tập /viok⁶ hok⁶ tap⁶/  ‘study’
(45) chăm sóc /cam¹ sok⁵/  ‘look after, take care of’
(46) việc chăm sóc /viok⁶ cam¹ sok⁵/  ‘looking after, care’

7) sự /suʔ/ 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) sỏng /son⁵/ 'to live'
(48) su, cuộc sỏng /su⁶ kuək⁶ son⁵/ 'life'
(49) ủng hộ /un⁷ ho⁶/ 'to support, back up'
(50) su ủng hộ /su⁶ un⁷ ho⁶/ 'support'
(51) giàu có /zaw² ko⁵/ 'rich'
(52) su giàu có /su⁶ zaw² ko⁵/ 'wealth'
(53) xấu xa /saw⁵ sa:¹/ 'ugly, bad looking'
(54) su xấu xa /su⁶ saw⁵ sa:¹/ 'ugliness'

In (48) su sỏng 'life' is more general than cuộc sỏng 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 /xaːn⁵ cien⁵/ 'to resist'
(56) cuộc kháng chiến /kuək⁶ xaːn⁵ cien⁵/ 'resistance'
(57) khủng hoàng /xun⁷ hwaːn³/ 'crisis'
(58) cuộc khủng hoàng /kuək⁶ xun⁷ hwaːn³/ 'a crisis'
(59) gặp gỡ /yap⁶ yə⁴/ 'to meet'
(60) cuộc gặp gỡ /kuək⁶ yap⁶ yə⁴/ 'meeting'

From the above examples, each verb type can be preceded by a certain nominaliser, except in (48) which can be preceded either su 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