

CASES AND CLAUSES IN VIETNAMESE

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0. *Introduction*

In this analysis of cases and clauses in Vietnamese an attempt will be made to make use of tagmemics (Brend 1970, 1972a, and 1972b; Cook 1969; Longacre 1964; Pike 1954, 1955, 1960, 1966, and 1971) and a case grammar model (Fillmore 1968, 1969, and 1971) called lexicase (Manley 1972; Starosta 1971a, 1971b, 1972a, 1972b, and 1972c; Taylor 1972). Such an eclectic combination of the two theories is not new either in the field of general linguistics (Cook 1970, 1971a, 1971b, and 1972; Heidi Platt 1970; John T. Platt 1971) or in Vietnamese (Liêm 1971a, 1971b, and 1972). Case grammar studies on Vietnamese can be found in Clark 1971a and 1971b, Ha 1970, Manley 1969, Taylor 1968, and Tran 1971, and a tagmemic analysis of Vietnamese can be seen in Liêm 1969.

In that this paper is tagmemically oriented, it recognizes firstly hierarchical levels in syntax and secondly the tagmeme, a grammatical unit composed of a slot and a filler class. The concept of hierarchies in syntax makes it possible to single out phrase structure rules (Chomsky 1965) and at the same time makes it unnecessary to write them in this paper. The grammatical slot of the tagmeme at the clause level, as has been pointed out by Becker (1967a and 1967b), Fries (1970), and Young, Becker, and Pike (1970), has not only an overt syntactic

relationship (case realization) but also a covert
governing relationship (case relation) with the predi-
cative verb.

In that the paper is also case grammar oriented,
it recognizes the case relations between various
nouns and the predicative verb in the clause (or pro-
position in Fillmore's terminology). However, it
also recognizes the centrality of the verb (Chafe
1970). The type of case grammar utilized here,
called lexibase by its developer, Stanley Starosta,
introduces both overt case realizations and covert
case relations into the grammar as syntactic features
assigned to nouns by verbs (Starosta 1971a, 1971b,
1972a, and 1972b).

Because the paper presents data rather than
defends the linguistic models utilized, theoretical
discussions are kept to the minimum. The reader is
also referred to Vietnamese linguistic bibliographies
by Thompson 1965, and Thompson and Thomas 1966.

Cases

In Vietnamese, there seem to be twelve case re-
lations, the definitions of which are taken mostly
from Fillmore 1968, 1969, and 1971:

The *AGENTIVE* (AGT) case: the AGT actant
is the "instigator of the event".

The *OBJECTIVE* (OBJ) case: the OBJ
actant is the "most neutral" actant.

The *DATIVE* (DAT) case: the case of the
"animate being affected by the state
of, the verb".

The *BENEFACTIVE* (BEN) case: the BEN
actant receives the benefit of the
action identified by the verb.

The *COMITATIVE* (COM) case: the COM
actant accompanies another actant
in the verbal activity or state

described.

The *INSTRUMENTAL* (INS) case.

The *LOCATIVE* (LOC) case: The LOC actant indicates the location.

The *DIRECTIONAL* (DIR) case: the DIR actant indicates the direction toward which motion occurs.

The *TIME* (TIM) case: the TIM actant identifies the time-setting of the action or state identified by the verb.

The *SOURCE* (SRC) case: the SRC actant indicates the location of time from which the action has begun.

The *GOAL* (GOAL) case: the GOAL actant indicates the location or time toward which the action occurs.

The *EXTENT* (EXT) case: the EXT actant indicates the space or time through which action or state identified by the verb has occurred.

Of these twelve cases, only the agentive and objective cases are nuclear in the clause; the dative, benefactive, and instrumental cases are semi-nuclear in the sense that they can be hosted only by certain verb classes; and the rest of the cases, the comitative, locative, *DIRECTIONAL*, *TIME*, *SOURCE*, *GOAL*, and *EXTANT* are satellite in that they occur with most verbs except those otherwise marked.

The twelve covert case relations are pigeon-holed in eleven overt case realizations, of which some are marked by their positions vis-à-vis the verb and some are marked by prepositions. The case realizations are:

NM	Nominative position immediately preceding the verb, no prepositions.
O	Objective position immediately

following the verb, no prepositions.

- D Dative realization with preposition *cho*. (This preposition and all the following ones except *với* and *bằng* are co-verbs. For discussion and examples, see Thompson 1965: 230-234).
- I Instrumental realization with preposition *bằng*.
- B Benefactive realization with prepositions *giùm* or *hộ*.
- C Comitative realization with preposition *với*.
- L Locative realization with preposition *ở*.
- Di Directional realization with prepositions such as *lên*, *xuống*, *qua*, *lại*, etc.
- SR Source realization with preposition *từ*.
- GL Goal realization with prepositions *từ* or *đến*.
- EX Extent realization with preposition *được*.

The twelve covert case relations and the eleven overt case realizations can be charted in a two-dimensional matrix yielding twenty five possibilities, as in Chart I.

CHART I

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		NM	O	D	B	C	I	L	Di	SR	GL	EX
1	AGT	1										
2	OBJ	2	6									
3	DAT	3	7	15								
4	BEN		8	16	17							
5	COM					18						
6	INS	4	9				19					
7	LOC	5	10					20				
8	DIR		11						22			
9	TIM		12									
10	SRC							21		23		
11	GOAL		13								24	
12	EXT		14									25

The twenty five possible combinations of covert case relations and overt case realizations are arrived at by applying case-related redundancy rules which are not specified here but which can be drawn from Chart II.

Chart II begins with [+K] for case positivity and ends with the twenty five tagmemic slots (covert case relations and overt case realizations) already stated in another way in Chart I. Following are examples of the tagmemic slots; their filler classes will be discussed along with the classification of verbs in Vietnamese.

1. [+NM, +AGT] is hosted by transitive agentive (*i.e.* -submissive, and -dative) verbs.

1. Ông ấy mua báo.
 he bought newspapers.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ]

2. [+NM, +OBJ] is hosted by copulative, stative, and intransitive verbs.

2.1. Ông ấy là bác-sĩ.
 he is a doctor.
 [+NM] [-K]
 [+OBJ]

- 2.2a. Ông ấy chậm lắm.
 he is slow very. (he is very slow)
 [+NM] (Adverb)
 [+OBJ]
- 2.2b. Ông ấy lạnh lắm.
 he is cold very. (he is very cold)
 [+NM] (Adverb)
 [+OBJ]
- 2.2c. Ông ấy chết.
 he died.
 [+NM]
 [+OBJ]
- 2.3a. Ông ấy ở Saigon.
 he stays in Saigon.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [+LOC]
- 2.3b. Ông ấy ra Saigon.
 he went out to Saigon.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [+DIR]
- 2.3c. Ông ấy đi Saigon.
 he went to Saigon.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [+DIR]
- 2.3d. Ông ấy tới Saigon.
 he arrived in Saigon.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [+GOAL]

3. [+NM, +DAT] is hosted by transitive submissive (bị and được) and transitive dative verbs.

- 3.1a. Ông ấy bị đi.
 he was forced to go.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+DAT] [+OBJ]
- 3.1b. Ông ấy bị họ đánh.
 he was forced they beat (he was beaten
 by them)
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+DAT] [+OBJ]
- 3.2a. Ông ấy biết bà ấy.
 he knows her.
 [+NM] [+O]
 [+DAT] [+OBJ]

3.2b. Ông ấy biết (rằng) bà ấy đi rồi.
he knew (that) she had gone al-
ready.

[+NM] [+O]
[+DAT] [+OBJ]

3.2c. Ông ấy muốn (rằng) bà ấy đi rồi.
he wanted (that) she went already.

[+NM] [+O]
[+DAT] [+OBJ]

3.2d. Ông ấy muốn (cho) bà ấy đi rồi.
he wished (so that) she had gone
already.

[+NM] [+O]
[+DAT] [+OBJ]

[+NM, +INS] is hosted by transitive agentive and intransitive verbs.

4.1. Dao này cắt thịt.
knife this cuts meat. (this knife cuts
meat)

[+NM] [+O]
[+INS] [+OBJ]

Note: only "potent" nouns can occur in the [+NM, +INS] slot.

4.2. Xe này đi Saigon.
vehicle this goes to Saigon. (This
vehicle goes to Saigon)

[+NM] [+O]
[+INS] [+DIR]

[+NM, +LOC] is hosted by stative verbs.

5. Phòng này lạnh.
room this is cold. (this room is cold)

[+NM]
[+LOC]

For a special class of nouns occurring in this slot, see Thompson (1965: 200-203), who calls them "relator nouns", while Starosta calls similar nouns in Sora "noun auxiliaries" (Starosta 1967).

[+O, +OBJ] is hosted by transitive verbs.

6.1. Ông ấy mua sách.
he bought books.

[+NM] [+O]
[+AGT] [+OBJ]

6.2. Ông ấy biết chuyện ấy.
 he knows story that. (he knows that story)

[+NM]
 [+DAT]

[+O]
 [+OBJ]

7. [+O, +DAT] is hosted by ditransitive dative verbs.

7. Ông ấy bán tôi sách.
 he sold me books

[+NM]
 [+AGT]

[+O]
 [+DAT]

[+O]
 [+OBJ]

8. [+O, +BEN] is hosted by ditransitive benefactive verbs. It is noted that this construction is always ambiguous, and therefore is usually avoided.

8. Ông ấy mua tôi sách.
 he bought me books.

[+NM]
 [+AGT]

[+O]
 [+BEN]

[+O]
 [+OBJ]

[+O]
 [+DAT]

9. [+O, +INS] is hosted by transitive or intransitive verbs. (It may be that there are only special transitive verbs that can host [+O, +INS].)

9.1. Ông ấy dùng dao.
 he used knives.

[+NM]
 [+AGT]

[+O]
 [+INS]

9.2. Ông ấy đi xe đò.
 he went by bus.

[+NM]
 [+OBJ]

[+O]
 [+INS]

10. [+O, +LOC] is hosted by intransitive locative verbs.

10. Ông ấy ở Saigon.
 he stays in Saigon. (Same as example 2.3a.)

[+NM]
 [+OBJ]

[+O]
 [+LOC]

11. [+O, +DIR] is hosted by intransitive directional verbs.

11.1. Ông ấy ra Saigon.
 he went to Saigon.

[+NM] [+O] (Same as example
[+OBJ] [+DIR] 2.3b.)

11.2. Ông ấy đi Saigon.
he went to Saigon.

[+NM] [+O] (Same as example
[+OBJ] [+DIR] 2.3c.)

[+O, +TIM] is hosted by any verb, thus may be considered as being a sentence tagmemic slot and consequently is not a case.

12. Ông ấy đi hôm qua.
he went yesterday.

[+NM] [+O]
[+OBJ] [+TIM]

[+O, +GOAL] is hosted by intransitive +goal verbs.

13. Ông ấy tới Saigon.
he arrived in Saigon.

[+NM] [+O] (Same as example
[+OBJ] [+GOAL] 2.3d.)

[+O, +EXT] is hosted by any verb except those marked otherwise.

14.1. Ông ấy đi hai ngày.
he went for two days.

[+NM] [+O]
[+OBJ] [+EXT]

14.2. Ông ấy đi hai dặm.
he went for two miles.

[+NM] [+O]
[+OBJ] [+EXT]

[+D, +DAT] is hosted by transitive agentive verbs.

15. Ông ấy bán sách cho tôi.
he sold books to me.

[+NM] [+O] [+D]
[+AGT] [+OBJ] [+DAT]

[+D, +BEN] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs. (This is an ambiguous construction, because [+D] can be either [+BEN] or [+DAT].)

16.1. Ông ấy mua sách cho tôi.
he bought books for me.

[+NM] [+O] [+D]
[+AGT] [+OBJ] [+BEN]

[+D]
[+DAT]

16.2. Ông ấy đi cho tôi.
 he went for me.
 [+NM] [+D]
 [+OBJ] [+BEN]

17. [+B, +BEN] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs.

17.1. Ông ấy mua sách giùm tôi.
 he bought books for me.
 [+NM] [+O] [+B]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ] [+BEN]

17.2. Ông ấy đi giùm tôi.
 he went for me.
 [+NM] [+B]
 [+OBJ] [+BEN]

18. [+C, +COM] is hosted by any verb except those marked otherwise.

18.1. Ông ấy mua sách với tôi.
 he bought books with me.
 [+NM] [+O] [+C]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ] [+COM]

18.2. Ông ấy đi với tôi.
 he went with me.
 [+NM] [+C]
 [+OBJ] [+COM]

19. [+I, +INS] is hosted by transitive, intransitive, and some stative verbs such as chết 'to die'.

19.1. Ông ấy mua sách bằng tiền Việt-Nam.
 he bought books by means of Vietnamese money.

[+NM] [+O] [+I]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ] [+INS]

19.2. Ông ấy đi bằng xe đò.
 he went by bus.
 [+NM] [+I]
 [+OBJ] [+INS]

20. [+L, +LOC] is hosted by any verb except those otherwise marked.

20. Ông ấy mua sách ở Mỹ.
 he bought books in America.
 [+NM] [+O] [+L]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ] [+LOC]

1. [+L, +SRC] is hosted by intransitive verbs, and could be thought of as [+L, +LOC] or even as [+O, +LOC] if ở 'to stay' in the following example were considered as the main verb of the clause.

21. Ông ấy ở Mỹ qua.
 he stayed America came over (he came over from America)

[+NM] [+L]
 [+OBJ] [+SRC]

[+L]
 [+LOC]

[+O]
 [+LOC]

2. [+Di, +DIR] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs.

22.1. Ông ấy đem sách lên Saigon.
 he brought books up to Saigon.

[+NM] [+O] [+Di]
 [+AGT] [+OBJ] [+DIR]

22.2. Ông ấy đi lên Saigon.
 he went up to Saigon.

[+NM] [+Di]
 [+OBJ] [+DIR]

3. [+SR, +SRC] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time source, and by most verbs except those marked otherwise if it means a place source.

23.1. Ông ấy đi từ Mỹ.
 he went from America.

[+NM] [+SR]
 [+OBJ] [+SRC]

23.2. Ông ấy đi từ hôm qua.
 he went since yesterday.

[+NM] [+SR]
 [+OBJ] [+SRC]

4. [+GL, +GOAL] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time goal, and is hosted by most verbs except those marked otherwise if it means a place goal.

24.1. Ông ấy đi tới hai giờ.
 he went till two o'clock.

[+NM] [+GL]
 [+OBJ] [+GOAL]

24.2. Ông ấy đi tới Saigon.
 he went to (and arrived at) Saigon.
 [+NM] [+GL]
 [+OBJ] [+GOAL]

25. [+EX, +EXT] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time extent, and is hosted by most verbs except those otherwise marked when it means a place extent.

25.1. Ông ấy đi được hai giờ.
 he went for two hours.
 [+NM] [+EX]
 [+OBJ] [+EXT]

25.2. Ông ấy đi được hai dặm.
 he went for two miles.
 [+NM] [+EX]
 [+OBJ] [+EXT]

Theoretically, given a verb that is hospitable to all the tagmemic slots, all the twenty five slots could appear in one single clause. However, because what is already known in larger linguistic or situational contexts is not normally repeated, only a limited number of them occur in the same clause. When they co-occur in the same clause, there seems to be a relative order of case realizations as follows, with those vertically ordered alternating with each other:

+B
 +L +NM +verb +O +I +C +SR +GL +EX
 +D +Di

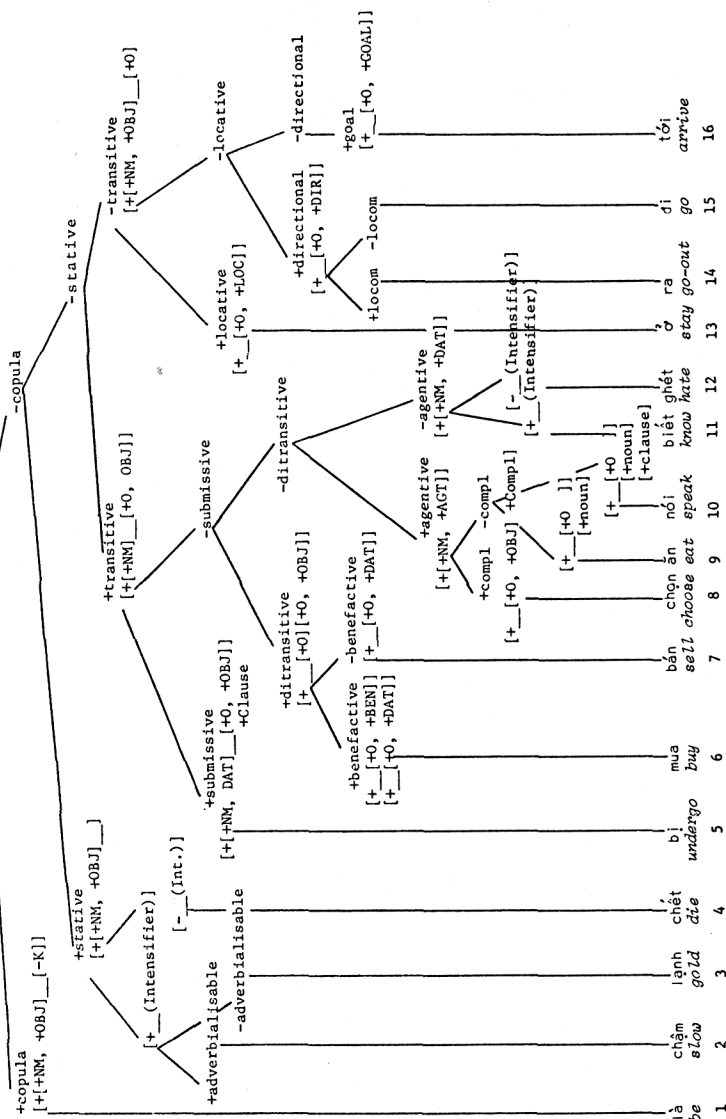
When there are many case realizations in a clause, one of them, usually the time case realization, is topicalized and moved to the front position of the clause.

Any clause level slot---whether a nuclear slot such as [+NM, +AGT], a semi-nuclear slot such as [+O, +DIR], or a satellite slot such as [+T, +TIM]---

CHART III

V E R B S

+VERB



là	chậm	lạnh	chết	bi	mua	bán	chọn	ăn	nói	biết	ghét	ở	đi	tới	đến
be	slow	gold	die	undergo	buy	sell	choose	eat	speak	know	hate	stay	go-out	arrive	arrive
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

can be omitted when it is clearly understood in higher linguistic hierarchies than the clause itself. For example, the reply in this two-sentence conversation does not have a [+NM, +OBJ] because it is clearly understood:

Ông đi không?
 you go no? (Are you going?)

[+NM]
 [+OBJ]

Đi.
 go. (Yes, I am going)

2. Verbs

According to their hospitality to the various case-marked tagmemic slots, verbs in Vietnamese can be classified into sixteen classes as indicated in Chart III. Sixteen verbs representative of each class are listed below with the case-marked tagmemic slots allowed to cooccur with them. It is to be noted that all of the case-marked tagmemic slots, except the [+O, +OBJ] slots containing submissive verbs, are filled by noun phrases. When they can be filled by other than noun phrases, they will be so indicated below. Numbers will refer to the examples found earlier in this paper.

1. là 'be'
 [[+NM, +OBJ]__[-K]]

noun phrase
 verb phrase
 clause
 prepositional phrase

Example 2.1.

Đi là chết
 to go is to die.

Ông Ba đi là phải.
 Mr. Ba's going is right
 (the right thing).

Từ đây đến đó là hai dặm.
 from here to there is
 two miles.

chậm 'slow', stative, adverbializable.
 [++NM, +OBJ]__ (Intensifier) Example 2.2a.
 Adverbializable as in:

Ông ấy đi chậm
 he went slowly.

4. lạnh 'cold', stative, not adverbializable.
 [++NM, +OBJ]__ (Intensifier)
 Example 2.2b.
5. chết 'die', stative, cannot be followed by adverbs. (There is also reason to classify these verbs in the intransitive group).
 [++NM, +OBJ]__
 Example 2.2c.
6. bị 'to be adversely affected', transitive submissive.
 [+NM, +DAT]__ [+O, +OBJ, +Clause]
 Examples 3.1a and 3.1b.
7. mua 'buy', ditransitive, +benefactive
 [++N, +AGT]__ [+O, {+BEN}] [+O, +OBJ]
 {+DAT}
- Example 8.
8. bán 'sell', ditransitive, -benefactive
 [++NM, +AGT]__ [+O, +DAT] [+O, +OBJ]
 Example 7.
9. chọn 'choose', transitive, + complement.
 [++NM, +AGT]__ [+O, +OBJ] +complement] Example:
 Ông ấy chọn bà ấy làm đại-diện.
 he chose her to be representative

[+NM]	[+O]	+complement
[+AGT]	[+OBJ]	
10. ăn 'eat', transitive, -complement.
 [++NM, +AGT]__ [+O, +OBJ] Example:
 Ông ấy ăn thịt
 he eats meat.
11. nói 'speak', transitive agentive.
 [++NM, +AGT]__ [+O, OBJ]
 noun phr.
 clause

Examples:

Ông ấy	nói	chuyện.
he	told	stories (or 'he conversed')
[+NM]		[+O]
[+AGT]		[+OBJ]

11. biết 'know', transitive dative.
[+[+NM, +DAT]__[+O, +OBJ]]

noun phr. Example 3.2a.

clause Examples 3.2b, 3.2c,
and 3.2d.

A sub-classification of this class of verb can be made according to whether their objective clause can be introduced by *rằng* 'that' as in the case of *biết* 'know' in example 3.2b or by either *rằng* 'that' or *cho* 'so that' as in the case of *muốn* 'want' in examples 3.2c and 3.2d.

12. ghét 'hate', transitive dative.

[+[+NM, +DAT]__[+O, +OBJ]]

noun phr.

clause

Examples:

Ông ấy	ghét	chuyện đó.
he	hated	that matter.
[+NM]		[+O]
[+DAT]		[+OBJ]

Ông ấy	ghét	rằng ông ấy phải đi.
he	hated	that he had to go.
[+NM]		[+O]
[+DAT]		[+OBJ]

13. ở 'stay at, live at, be at', intransitive, locative

[+[+NM, +OBJ]__[+O, +LOC]]

Example 2.3a.

14. ra 'go out', intransitive, directional, + locomotion.

[+[+NM, +OBJ]__[+O, +DIR]]

Example 2.3b.

15. đi 'go', intransitive, directional, -locomotion.

[+[+NM, +OBJ]__[+O, +DIR]]

Example 2.3c.

16. tới 'arrive', intransitive, +goal.

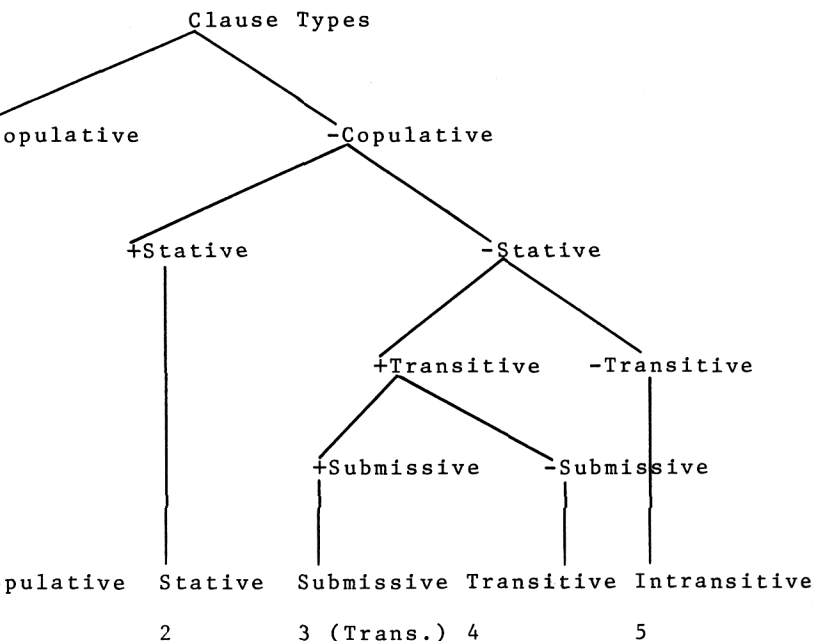
[+[+NM, +OBJ]__[+O, +GOAL]]

Example 2.3d.

Clause Types

According to identificational-contrastive features such as the nuclear tagmemic slots (Longre 1964), clauses in Vietnamese can be classified to five types, as in Chart IV below:

CHART IV



It is to be noted that the classification of clauses into clause types is parallel to that of verbs in Chart III, and that the five clause types can be subclassified into sixteen allo-types just as verbs are classified into sixteen groups.

For the reader's convenience, examples of the five clause types are repeated below. Only pertinent tag-memic slots and pseudo-features of verbs will be given

- 1. Copulative Clause Ông ấy là bác-sĩ.
 Type: he is a doctor.
 (Examples 2.1) [+NM] [+verb] [-K]
 [+OBJ] [+copula]
- 2. Stative Clause Ông ấy chết.
 Type: he died.
 (Example 2.2c) [+NM] [+verb]
 [+OBJ] [+stative]
- 3. Submissive Clause Ông ấy bị họ đánh.
 Type: he was forced they beat
 (Example 3.1b) he was beaten by them.
 (See also Nguyen [+NM] [+verb] [+O]
 Dinh-Hoa 1972.) [+DAT] [+trans] [+OBJ]
 [+subm]
- 4. Transitive Ông ấy mua báo.
 Clause Type: he bought newspapers.
 (Example 1) [+NM] [+verb] [+O]
 [+AGT] [+trans] [+OBJ]
- 5. Intransitive Ông ấy ở Saigon.
 Clause Type: he stays in Saigon.
 (Example 2.3a) [+NM] [+verb] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [-trans] [+LOC]
 [+loc]

4. Clause Classes

Besides the dimension of clause types, there is also the dimension of clause classes. The thirteen clause classes in Vietnamese are stated in Chart V below.

- 1. *Declarative Clause Class.* This is the kernel clause class from which all the other eleven clause classes are derived when appropriate transform rules (Longacre 1964) are applied. All the examples so far given are declarative clauses. The example below will serve as kernel for all the derived clause classes.

Ông ấy mua báo.
 he bought newspapers.
 [+NM] [+verb] [+O]
 [+AGT] [+trans] [+OBJ]

2. *Imperative Clause Class.* Clauses of this class are identified by their imperative predicate (i.e. having *hãy* 'had better', *đừng* 'had better not', etc.)

Ông *hãy* mua báo.
 You (Mr.) 'd better buy newspapers.
 [+imperative]

3. *Interrogative Alternative Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have one of their tagmemes paired with an alternative tagmeme.

Ông ấy mua báo hay sách?
 Did he buy newspapers or books?
 [+O] [+alt] [+O]
 [+OBJ] [+OBJ]

4. *Interrogative Right-Wrong Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a right-wrong interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy mua báo, phải không?
 he bought newspapers right not?
 (he bought newspapers, didn't he?)
 [+RightWrong]

5. *Interrogative Possibility Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a possible-impossible interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy mua báo, được không?
 he bought newspapers possible not
 (he bought newspapers, OK?)
 [+Possibility]

6. *Interrogative Yes-No Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a negative interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy mua báo không?
 he buy books no
 (Does he buy newspapers?)

7. *Interrogative Nominative Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have an interrogative nominative actant.

Ai mua báo?
 who bought newspapers?
 [+NM]
 [+AGT]
 [+Interr]

8. *Interrogative Objective Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have an interrogative objective actant.

Ông ấy mua gì?
 he bought what?
 [+O
 +OBJ
 +Interr]

9. *Interrogative-Extra Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have an interrogative satellite actant, for example Time.

Ông ấy mua báo hồi nào?
 he bought newspapers when?
 (when did he buy newspapers?)
 [+T
 +TIM
 +Interr]

0. *Dependent Relative Clause Class.* Clauses of this class are introduced by *rằng* 'that' or *cho* 'so that', and fill the Objective slot of the embedding clause.

Ông ấy nói (rằng) ông ấy mua báo.
 he said (that) he bought newspapers.
 [+NM
 +DAT] [+O
 +OBJ]

1. *Dependent Nominative Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a dependent nominative actant which may be omitted.

Người (mà) mua báo...
 the person that bought newspapers...
 [+NM
 +AGT
 +Dep]

2. *Dependent Objective Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a dependent objective actant which may be omitted and which is pre-posed to the position before the nominative actant when present.

Báo (mà) ông ấy mua...
 the newspapers (that) he bought...
 [+O
 +OBJ
 +Dep]

13. *Dependent-Extra Clause Class.* Clauses of this class have a dependent satellite actant, for example Time, which is pre-posed to the position before the nominative actant or omitted all together.

Ngày (mà) ông ấy mua báo...
 the day when he bought newspapers...

+T
 +TIM
 +Dep

5. *Clause Units*

The five Clause Types and the twelve Clause Classes form a bi-dimensional matrix giving sixty four possibilities or Clause Units of which only fifty one are grammatical in Vietnamese. The 51 Clause Units are listed in the following Chart VI.

Chart VI

Clause Classes		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		
		Declarative	Imperative	InterAltern	InterRWrong	InterPossib	InterYesNo	InterNM	InterOBJ	InterExtra	DepRelative	DepNM	DepOBJ	DepExtra												
1	Copulative	X		X	X					X			X			X			X		X				X	
2	Stative	X	(X)	X	X			X	X			X		X		X		X	X		X				X	
3	Submissive	X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X				X	
4	Transitive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	Intransitive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

(X). Some Stative verbs can be used in imperative forms.

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