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 /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) cái xâu /kaːj səw/  ‘ugliness’
(3) đẹp /dɛp/  ‘beautiful’
(4) cái đẹp /kaːj dɛp/  ‘beauty’
(5) ăn mặc /an1 mak/  ‘dress oneself’
(6) cái ăn cái mặc /kaːj an1 kaːj mak/  ‘food and clothes’
(7) bắt tay /bat5 taj/  ‘shake hands’
(8) cái bắt tay /kaːj bat5 taj/  ‘handshake’
(9) tŏt /tot⁵/  ‘good’
(10) cái tŏt /kaːt⁶ tot⁵/  ‘goodness’

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

(11) cuôí /kuəj²/  ‘to laugh’
(12) nu cuôí /nu⁶ kuəj²/  ‘a laugh’
(13) hôn /hon¹/  ‘to kiss’
(14) nu hôn /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) băo /baːw⁴/  ‘to be stormy’
(16) con băo /kən¹ baːw⁴/  ‘a storm’
(17) sŏt /sot⁵/  ‘be warm, be high in temperature’
(18) con sŏt /kən¹ sot⁵/  ‘warmth’
(19) giân /zən⁶/  ‘be angry’
(20) con giân /kən¹ zən⁶/  ‘anger’
(21) hoăn nan /hwən⁶ nan⁶/  ‘distress’
(22) con hoăn nan /kən¹ hwən⁶ nan⁶/  ‘a period of misfortune’
(23) gió /zə⁵/  ‘be windy’
(24) con gió /kən¹ zə⁵/  ‘wind’
(25) mua /muə¹/  ‘be rainy’
(26) con mua /kən¹ muə¹/  ‘rain’

4) niêm /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) niêm vui /niəm² vuj¹/  ‘joy’
(29) kiều hạnh /kʲiəw² həŋ⁴/ ‘proud of’
(30) niêm kiều hạnh /niəm² kʲiəw² həŋ⁴/ ‘pride’
(31) thủ hào /tu⁶ həw²/ ‘proud of’
(32) niêm thủ hào /niəm² tu⁶ həw²/ ‘pride’
(33) hy vông /hi¹ voc⁶/ ‘to hope’
(34) niêm hy vông /niəm² hi¹ voc⁶/ ‘hope’
(35) tin /tin¹/ ‘to believe’
(36) niêm tin /niəm² tin¹/ ‘believe’

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

(37) buồn /buən²/ ‘be sad’
(38) nôi buồn /noj⁴ buən²/ ‘sadness’
(39) nhớ /noɛ⁵/ ‘to remember, to miss’
(40) nôi nhớ /noj⁴ noɛ⁵/ ‘nostalgia’

6) viếc /vʲiək⁶/ nominalises the lexical unit which can be the transitive verbs indicating personal obligations. The nominaliser functions as a classifier, e.g.

(41) học hạnh /hək⁶ həŋ²/ ‘to learn’
(42) viéc học hạnh /vʲiək⁶ hək⁶ həŋ²/ ‘learning, behavior’
(43) học tập /hək⁶ təp⁶/ ‘to study’
(44) viéc học tập /vʲiək⁶ hək⁶ təp⁶/ ‘study’
(45) chăm sóc /cam¹ sək⁵/ ‘look after, take care of’
(46) viéc chăm sóc /vʲiək⁶ cam¹ sək⁵/ ‘looking after, care’

7) sư /suw⁶/ 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/  
(48) **sự, cuộc sống** /su⁶ kuək⁶ soŋ⁵/  
(49) **ứng hộ** /un⁵ ho⁶/  
(50) **sự  Ứng hộ** /su⁶ un⁵ ho⁶/  
(51) **giàu có** /zaw² ko⁵/  
(52) **sự  Giàu có** /su⁶ zaw² ko⁵/  
(53) **xấu xa** /saw⁵ sa:¹/  
(54) **sự  Xấu xa** /su⁶ saw⁵ sa:¹/  

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** /xa:n⁵ ciən⁵/  ‘to resist’
(56) **cuộc kháng chiến** /kuək⁶ xa:n⁵ ciən⁵/  ‘resistance’
(57) **khủng hoàng** /xuŋ³ hwa:n³/  ‘crisis’
(58) **cuộc khủng hoàng** /kuək⁶ xuŋ³ hwa:n³/  ‘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 **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
hệ thống máy giúp cho việc móc nước.

system machine help for clf. 'scoop water

V P NP

'In the market, there is a constructed stone well which has a machine for pumping water.'

In (61), the NP việc móc nước 'pumping water' is a constituent of the PP which is a purposive complement of the preceding verb giúp 'help'.

(62) Dân chài không chuồng việc học, chạy ăn
Fisherman not like clf. study go in search for food
NP NEG V NP V
quay sang rượu chế, cờ bạc.
turn across alcohol tea gamble
V V NP NP NP

'The fishermen do not like studying, go in search for food and like to drink alcohol, tea and gamble.'

In (62), the NP việc học 'studying' is the NP complement of the transitive verb chuồng 'like' in the first clause.

(63) Ngoài việc dùng để làm gia vị cho bữa ăn nó
apart from clf. use for do season for food it
P NP

con được dùng để cắt tinh dầu, chế
still gain use for distill essential oil make
AdvP AUX V P V NP V
nuốc hoa, ướp chế, làm rượu mùi
perfume perfumed tea do liquor
NP NP V NP

'Beside using as seasoning for food, it can be used for distilling the essential oil, making perfume, perfumed tea and liquor.'

In (63), việc dùng để làm gia vị cho bữa ăn, is the NP modifying the head P ngoại 'apart'. This PP is the topicalised adjunct of the sentence.
(64) Sư tử Ươm có thể được làm to hay
Death anniversary be able receive do big or
NP AUX AUX V AdvP CONJ
nhỏ tùy theo sự liên hệ giữa
small depend on clf. enter relation with between
AdvP V NP
người làm giờ và người chết.
Person do death Anniversary and person die
P NP Conj NP
‘The anniversary of a death can be a time to organise big or small event, depending on the relationship between the performers and the deceased.’

In (64), the NP Sự liên hệ giữa người làm giờ ‘the relationship between the performer’ is the complement of the verb tùy theo ‘depend on’ of the second clause.

(65) Sư xúc động của ngàn người xem
Clf. feel moved of thousand person look at
NP
bảo tàng cùng là nguồn cảm xúc lớn lao đối với tôi.
museum also be source feel great towards me
AdvP V NP
‘Feeling moved by looking at a thousand visitors at the museum is also a great source of feeling for me.’

In (65), the NP Sự xúc động của ngàn người xem bảo tàng ‘feeling moved by looking at thousand visitors at the museum’ is the subject of the clause which has the verb là ‘to be’ as the main verb.

(66) Đây là sự hợp tác nằm trong chương trình
this is clf. cooperate be in in program
NP V NP
phối hợp hành động rất có hiệu quả.
combine action very have effect
AdvP V NP
‘This is cooperation found in the joint action program which is very effective.’
In (66), the NP sự hợp tác nhằm trong chương trình phối hợp hành động ‘cooperation found in the joint action program’ is the complement of the verb là ‘to be’ which is the main clause.

(67) Đến thời kỳ khó khăn về kinh tế do sự bảo vây, cảm vấn của Mỹ cũng là những surround embargo of USA also be pl.

dễ tài được ban đọc quan tâm.
topic gain friend read be interested in

‘Come to difficult time in terms of economy due to embargo improved by the U.S. which is concerned by readers.’

In (67), the NP sự bảo vây ‘the surrounding’ is the constituent of the PP preceded by a preposition do ‘by’.

Niệm

(68) Niệm vui của chợ Đông Ba thường tho cũng início NP AdvP
là Niệm vui của người dân độ thị Huế.

‘Cheerfulness of the longevity of Dong Ba market is also

the cheerfulness of the Hue people.’

In (68), there are two nominalised NPs in this sentence which are preceded by the same nominalising marker niêm. The first nominalised NP niêm vui của chợ Đông Ba thường tho ‘the cheerfulness of the longevity of Dong Ba market’ is the subject of the sentence. The second nominalised NP niêm vui của người dân độ thị Huế ‘the cheerfulness of the Hue people’ is the object of the verb là ‘to be’.
cuộc, niêm
(69) Cuộc khai quật cuối năm 1998 nhen lên niệm
Clf. exhum end year 1998 light up clf.
NP V NP
hy vọng có thể tìm kiếm được dưới lòng
hope be able search able under heart
AUX V PostV. N
dạt những dấu tích của quá khứ vàng son.
earth pl. vestige of past golden
NP
‘The exhumation at the end of the year 1998 lighted up
the hope of being able to search for the ancient gold
under the earth.’

In (69), there are two nominalised NPs. The first NP
cuộc khai quật cuối năm 1988 ‘the exhumation at the end
of the year 1998’ is the subject of the main clause. The second
NP niêm hy vọng ‘the hope’ is the object of the main verb
nhen lên ‘light up’ as well as the subject of the following
clause.

3. Thai

In Thai, nominalisation occurs by adding the words การ /kaːn/ or ความ /kʰwaːm/ before the verb which then becomes a
noun phrase. This nominalisation in Thai is popular. There are
3 types of nominalising the verbs, as follows:

i. Nominalise a main verb.

ii. Nominalise a verb of the verb serialization

iii. Nominalise a clause/ a sentence

3.1 Nominalise a main verb

Nominalise the main verb by preceding the
nominalising markers การ /kaːn/ or ความ /kʰwaːm/ with some
changes in the sentence, as follows:

3.1.1 Nominalise the main verb and add the new main verb instead, i.e. มี /mī/ ‘to have’, ทำ /tʰam/ ‘to do’, ได้รับ
/dâːj ráp/ ‘to receive’, as follows:
(70) /tamrùət trùət kʰón pʰàp hɛːŋ mʊŋ/
police examine pub place one
NP V NP
'The police examined a pub.'

(70) is a simple sentence, with the main verb /trùət kʰón/ ‘to examine’ which nominalises as a noun phrase as in (91)

(71) /tamrùət tʰam kən trùət kʰón pʰàp hɛːŋ mʊŋ/
policemen do Nom. examine pub place one
NP V NP
'The policemen examined a pub.'

In (71), the main verb /trùət khón/ is nominalised by the nominalised marker /kən/ preceding the main verb which is an action verb. Then there is no verb in this sentence. Therefore, the new verb /tham/ ‘to do’ is added as the main verb.

(72) /kʰàw pʰâ:kʰu:mcaj tʰiː dâːj ráp luək pen
he be proud which receive elect be
NP V Rel Pron V V V
pʰûːtʰɛːnraːtsadɔːn/
representative
NP
'He was proud to be elected as a representative.'

In (72), the main verb of the sentence is /pʰâ:kʰu:mcaj/ ‘be proud’ which will be nominalised as in (73).

(73) /kʰàw mi:kʰwaːm pʰâ:kphu:mcaj thîː dâːj ráp
he have NOM be proud which receive
NP V NP Rel Pron. V
luək pen pʰûːtʰɛːnraːtsadɔːn/
elect be representative
V V NP
'He has pride in being elected as a representative.'
In (793), the verb /pʰâ:kphumcaj/ ‘be proud’ is an abstract meaning which is nominalised by the nominalising marker /kʰwam/. Then there is no verb in the sentence. The proper new verb /mi:/ ‘to have’ functions as a new main verb with the nominalised NP as the complement.

(74) /náktʰɔːŋtʰaw pʰɔːcaj naj bɔːrikaːn ní: mâ:k/ tourists be satisfy in service this very NP V P NP

‘The tourists are very satisfied with this service.’

In (74), the main verb /pʰɔːcaj/ ‘be satisfied’ will be nominalised as in (75).

(75) /náktʰɔːŋθhaw dâ:jrão kʰwam pʰɔːcaj naj tourists receive NOM satisfactory in NP V NP bɔːrikaːn ní: mâ:k/

service this very

‘The tourists received very much satisfaction from this service.’

In (75), the verb /pʰɔːcaj/ ‘be satisfied’ is the stative verb which is nominalised by the nominalising marker /kʰwa:m/. The new proper verb is /dâ:jrão/ ‘to receive’ added as the main verb.

3.1.2 Nominalise the main verb by preceding with a nominalised marker ทร /ka:n/ or ความ /kʰwa:m/ and conjoining the two noun phrases with a preposition, as in:

(76) /là:kken tâŋ tâŋ lâw ní: mi: wâj pʰûːə hâj principles these have for give NP V P V pʰû:bɔːripʰɔːk ná:mkʰɛːŋ plɔːtpʰaj/ consumer ice safe NP V

‘These principles make the consumers consume ice safely’.
In (76), the purposive clause /pʰɯə hâj pʰuːbɔːripʰǒ:k náːmkʰɛːŋ plɔːtpʰaj/ ‘for the safety of the ice consumers’ will be nominalised as in (77)

\[
\text{(77) /låkkə:n tåːŋ tåːŋ lâw nî: miː wâj pʰuə principles these have for NP V P NP kʰwaːmplɔːtpʰaj kɛː pʰuːbɔːripʰǒ:k náːmkʰɛːŋ/ safety for consumer ice P NP}
\]

‘These principles are set for the safety of the ice consumers.’

Nawawan Phanthumetha (1984:187)

In (77), the verb /plɔːtpʰaj/, which is the verb of the purposive clause, is nominalised by adding the nominalising marker /kʰwaːm/. The word /hâj ‘to give’ is deleted and add another preposition /kɛː/ ‘for’ preceding the NP /pʰù:bɔːripʰǒ:k náːmkʰɛːŋ/ ‘ice consumer’. The constituents after the preposition /pʰɯə/ ‘for’ becomes the noun phrase.

3.1.3 The active sentence is transformed into the passive, and the nominalising markers /kaːn/ or /kʰwaːm/ is added before the verb, as follows:

\[
\text{(78) /hùːnâː cʰomcʰə:j kʰɔːw/ boss praise he NP V NP ‘The boss praised him.’}
\]

In (78), the active sentence has the verb /cʰomcʰə:j/ ‘to praise’ which has the complement /kʰɔːw/. The verb /cʰom cʰə:j/ ‘to praise’ will be nominalised as in (79).

\[
\text{(79) /kʰɔːw dâːjrâp kaːn cʰomcʰə:j câːk hùːnâː/ he receive complimentation from boss NP V NP ‘He has received a complement from the boss.’}
\]
In (79), the NP patient is preposed as the NP subject of the passive sentence. The new verb /dâːjrâp/ ‘to receive’ is added, whereas the old verb is nominalised by adding the nominalising marker /kaːn/ as /kaːn cʰomeːj/ ‘complementation’.

3.2 Nominalise a verb of the verb serialization

There are several ways to nominalise one of the serial verbs to be a nominalised NP as follows:

3.2.1 Nominalise the second verb by preceding /kaːn/ or /kʰwaːm/ without changing any position in the sentence, as in:

(80) /kʰâw cʰɔːp ʔittɔː tâŋpratʰɛːt/
NP V V NP
He like contact foreign countries)
‘He likes to contact the foreign countries.’

In (80), the main verb is /cʰɔːp/ ‘like’. The second verb is /ʔittɔː/ ‘to contact’ which will be nominalised as follows:

(81) /kʰâw cʰɔːp ʔittɔː tâŋpratʰɛːt/
NP V V NP
he like NOM contact with foreign countries)
‘He likes to have the contact with foreign countries.’

In (81), the main verb /cʰɔːp/ is still remaining. But the second verb is nominalised by preceding with /kaːn/ as /kaːn ʔittɔː kâp tâŋpratʰɛːt/. The whole VP becomes the nominalised complement NP. Inside the constituent nominalised NP, a preposition /kâp/ ‘with’ is added preceding the last NP optionally.

3.2.2 Nominalise the main verb by adding /kaːn/, /kʰwaːm/. Then postpose the modified NP following the second verb which is preceded by a preposition, as in:
(82) /kʰāw kʰá: kʰâ:w kʰâ:t tʰun/
   he sell rice lose profit
   NP V NP V NP
   'He lost from selling rice.'

In (82), there are two clauses, as follows:

(83) /kʰāw kʰá: kʰâ:w/
   he sell rice
   NP V NP
   'He sells rice.'

(84) /kʰāw kʰâ:t tʰun/
   he lose profit
   NP V NP
   'He lost profit.'

In (84), the second clause is preposed at the beginning of the sentence. The former first clause is nominalised as the NP by adding the nominalising marker /kam/ and add the preposition /câ:k/ 'from' preceding the nominalised NP, as follows:

(85) /kʰāw kʰâ:t tʰun câ:k kam kʰá: kʰâ:w/
   he lose profit from selling rice
   NP V NP PP
   'He lost profit from selling rice.'

In (85), /kʰâ:w kʰâ:t tʰun/ 'He lost' is a resultative clause. The nominalised NP /kam kʰá: kʰâ:w/ is the constituent of the PP with the head preposition /câ:k/ 'from' which conveys the cause. There is another way to say this sentence, as in:

(86) /kam kʰá: kʰâ:w tʰam hâ:j kʰāw kʰâ:t tʰun/
   (NOM sell rice make he lose)
   NP V NP V
   'Selling rice caused him lost.'
In (86), the nominalised NP /kə:n kʰáː kʰáː:w/ ‘Selling rice’ is the subject of the sentence which is the cause of the following result. The new causative verb /tʰam hâ:j/ ’to make’ is added preceding the subordinate resultative clause /kʰá:w kʰáː:t tʰun/ (87)

/kʰá:w tʰàŋcaj tʰamŋaːn/
NP V V
he intend work
‘He intends to work.’

In (87), the main verb /tʰàŋcaj/ ‘to intend’ has the VP complement /tʰamŋaːn/ ‘to work’. Then the main verb is postponed after the second verb and nominalised as a nominalised NP, as in (88).

(88) /kʰá:w tʰamŋaːn dûːj kʰwaːm tʰàŋcaj/
NP V NP PP
he work with intention
‘He pay attention to work.’

In (88), the main verb /tʰàŋcaj/ is nominalised by preceding the word /kʰwaːm/ which become a nominalised NP. Then a preposition /dûːj/ is added before the nominalised NP. This PP is the adjunct of the preceding verb phrase.

3.3 Nominalise a clause/ a sentence
There are the nominalised markers /kə:n/, /kə:n tʰiː/, /kʰwaːm/ which nominalise the sentences, as in:

(89) /kʰr̥ːpʰkʰruː lômeːsalāːj pen hēːt nuŋ kʰăːŋ
family collapse be cause one of
NP V V NP P
panhāː sâŋkʰom/
problem society
NP
‘The broken families is a cause of social problem.’
In (89), the main clause /kʰrɔːpkʰruə lômsalâːj/ is nominised as follows: the main verb /lômsalâːj/ ‘break’ in the main clause is preposed before the NP /kʰrɔːpkʰruə/ ‘family’. Then nominalise the main verb by adding the nominalising marker /kʰwaːm/ as /kʰwaːm lômsalâːj/ ‘The collapse’. Then add the preposition khɔːŋ ‘of’ in between the nominalised NP /kʰwaːm lômsalâːj/ ‘The collapse’ and /kʰrɔːpkʰruə/ ‘family, as in (90).

(90) /kʰwaːm lômsalâːj kʰɔːŋ kʰrɔːpkʰruə pen
    NOM mk collapse of family be
    NP
    hɛːt muŋ kʰɔːŋ panhâː sâŋkʰom/
    cause one of problem society
    NP P NP

‘Collapse of the family is a cause of social problems.’

In (90), the simple sentence becomes the nominalised NP /kʰwaːm lômsalâːj kʰɔːŋ kʰrɔːpkʰruə/ ‘the collapse of the family’ as the subject of the verb /pen/ ‘to be’.

(91) /raw ca tʰam ?araj kɔː: taːm tɔːŋ
    we will do whatever have
    NP AUX V NP AUX
    kʰɪt hâjdiː/
    to think carefully
    V AdvP

‘We will do whatever, we have to think carefully.’

(92) /kaːn tʰiː raw ca tʰam ?araj kɔː: taːm
    NOM we will do whatever
    NP
    tɔːŋ kʰɪt hâj diː/
    have to think carefully
    AUX V AdvP

‘Whatever we do, we have to think carefully.’

(91) is the clause which can be nominalised by adding the nominalising marker /kaːn tʰiː/. The nominalised clause
/kaːntʰiː raw ca tʰam ?araj kɔː taːm/ becomes the subject NP of the sentence.

4. Conclusion

The word-formation of Vietnamese and Thai in forming a noun from verbs which become a noun phrase are quite similar. The nominalised NPs can be either subject, object of the sentence or the NP constituent of the PP. The ways of nominalising NP in Vietnamese are more simple and straightforward than the ways of nominalising NP in Thai. In Vietnamese, there are 8 nominalising markers: cãi, nụ, con, niêm, viéc, sụ, cuộc. In Thai, there are 3 nominalising markers: /kaːn/, /kʰwaːm/, /kaːntʰiː/ There are 3 types verb nominalisation in Thai, as follows:

1) The main verbs are nominalised as follows:
   1.1 The main verb is nominalised and then new main verbs are added, i.e. /miː/ 'to have' /tʰam/ 'to do', /dâːjráp/ 'to receive'
   1.2 The main verb is nominalised by preceding the nominalising markers /kaːn/ or /khwaːm/ and the two noun phrases are conjoined by the preposition.
   1.3 The active sentences are transformed into the passive sentences. The nominalising marker is preceded the verb.

2) Nominalise a verb of the verb serialization as follows:
   2.1 Nominalise the second verb by preceding /kaːn/, /kʰwaːm/ without changing any position in the sentence.
   2.2 Nominalise the main verb by adding /kaːn/, /kʰwaːm/. Then postpone the modified NP following the second verb which is preceded by a preposition.

3) The sentence is nominalised by adding the nominalising markers /kaːn/ or /kaːntʰiː/ or /kʰwaːm/ preceding the clause or sentence.
References


