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Name of thesis: Investigating Vietnamese fragment, an approach from Functional grammar perspective

Major: Linguistics

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The major results of thesis

The thesis studies Vietnamese fragment from the perspective of functional grammar theory, the school of functional discourse grammar built by Dik and etc.

From the research results of this project, we have initially established the position of fragment in Vietnamese syntax, proposed the concept of fragment, and applied the theoretical framework of discourse functional grammar to describe the three dimensions of syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic of Vietnamese fragment. As a sentence, fragment fully reflects the three research dimensions: syntactic, semantics, and pragmatics.

On the syntactic dimension, based on the layered structure and the tool concepts of the nucleus - the operator, we have identified the structural frame of Vietnamese fragment, isolating 13 structural forms of fragment into two major groups: fragment with the nucleus and fragment with the nucleus and the operators. The sentence patterns are symbolized and explained based on the position of the value components. The corpus also initially demonstrates the variation in the prototypicality of sentence patterns, where the more minimalistic forms of fragment are more common in communication.

From the description of the syntactic dimension, it can be confirmed that fragment is an independent sentence type with its frame, completely separate from other sentence types in Vietnamese syntax. The structure of fragment is organized in a complete and clearly stratified manner, which can be modeled and differentiated in terms of prototypicality.

On the semantic dimension, through the analysis of the two main dimensions of sentence meaning, state of affairs and modal meaning, the thesis has demonstrated fragment's ability to express meaning. Like other sentences, the semantic elements in fragment harmoniously combine to convey state of affairs information quite fully and subtly reveal the speaker's attitude towards what is being said in the sentence or towards the listener. The semantic dimension also highlights the special points of this sentence type, or in other words, classifies fragment into different meaning-

conveying groups, such as: fragment that can fully convey both state of affairs and modal meaning; fragment with only modal meaning and undefined state of affairs meaning (often fragment with interjection as the nucleus); and fragment with clearly defined state of affairs meaning but difficult to determine modal meaning (fragment with only a nucleus and the nucleus is not an interjection). Going into detail, the fragment also reflects selective expression, only reflecting certain types of state of affairs and modal meaning.

On the pragmatic dimension, the thesis examines fragment in relation to communicative activity to analyze and clarify the contextual characteristics and speech purposes of fragment. Through the analysis of the direct context in which fragment appears and the impact of interpersonal relationships on the syntactic adjustment of fragment, we have affirmed that fragment is an inevitable choice in certain communicative circumstances. At the same time, fragment itself can convey major speech purposes like all other sentence types, with some cases where the speech purpose is fully and sharply marked through the expression of fragment.

From the arguments presented in the thesis, we can assert that the existence of fragment is a necessary and intentional choice among many communicative options available within the language systems. In other words, fragment must have differences compared to other classifications at the same level, but it is not an abnormal sentence type; therefore, it should not (or need not) be isolated into a separate group, and stringent judgments regarding the existence of fragment in syntax should be avoided. This can be considered a condition or basis for identifying and distinguishing fragment in Vietnamese syntactic theory.

As stated in the thesis, the understanding of the various aspects of fragment has not yet achieved complete consensus, particularly regarding the theoretical framework when applied to a subject with many specific characteristics like the Vietnamese fragment. Therefore, we believe that further exploration and clarification of fragment can be undertaken using other functional theoretical frameworks (such as Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics), some modern theories like prototype theory, or Nanosyntax to address the gaps remaining in this thesis.

Key words: *Vietnamese fragment; Functional Discourse Grammar; the nucleus; operators; syntactic; semantic; pragmatic.*

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