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**EXPERIENTIAL MEANINGS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE SPECIALISED ECONOMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

**A TRANSITIVITY COMPARISON**

*(***Nghĩa Trải nghiệm trong các Bài báo Tạp chí Chuyên ngành Kinh tế tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt: Nghiên cứu So sánh trên bình diện Chuyển tác***)*

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**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS**

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# INTRODUCTION

## 1. Research aim and questions

The overarching aim of this study is to compare the English and Vietnamese Economic research articles published in economics specialized Journals, using Halliday’s transitivity model as the theoretical framework, to pinpoint the similarities and differences in the way experiential meanings are expressed in the mentioned research articles. To fulfill the above aim and the objectives, the following three questions are raised for exploration:

1. *What transitivity resources do English and Vietnamese economic researchers employ in their specialised economic journal articles?*
2. *How do they employ those transitivity resources to construct experiential meanings in their texts?*
3. *What are the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese specialized economic journals in terms of transitivity?*

# 2. Scope of the study

The scope of this study is confined to exploring and comparing the experiential meanings expressed in English and Vietnamese Economics Specialised Journals from Systemic Functional Grammar perspective. This means that the Interpersonal and Textual meanings are not covered. The corpus for the analysis includes ten English and ten Vietnamese research articles from the leading Journals in Economics. This also means other types of discourses in economics like magazines or textbooks are not considered in the study. Due to the data size, the thesis does not aim to represent all types of economic research articles which may have various schematic structures. Only ten from each language having the schematic structures Introduction, Method, Results and Discussions (IMRD) are chosen for the investigation and comparison.

## 3. Contribution of the study

The following contributions the thesis can be made:

3.1 Contribution to the insight into the experiential resources that enable experiential meanings from the SFL perspective. Though transitivity analysis has been made in literary works and in several scientific languages in textbook, none has been done into economics research articles in English and Vietnamese. This has also been the first comparative study into experiential meanings of the two languages.

3.2. Contribution to the application of SFL into interpreting non-English languages. SFL is used as the theoretical framework for analysis and comparison. The results of this thesis once more reinforce the applicational values of the framework.

3.3 Contribution to the reconfirmation of the notion that language is universal. This comparative study takes the English as the base language to compare with the Vietnamese language and the results show great similarities between the two in terms of the use of experiential resources to express meanings. Differences enables the confirmation that language is also culture specific, and subject to variation.

3.4 Contribution to practical research writing. Researchers coming new to the economics research community in particular and research community in general can have an insight into the way they can use experiential resources to express their research experiences and to report these in the right manner.

3.5 Contribution can also be made to the application of language teaching at university. It provides a basis for educational decisions made at universities. University students, and lecturers especially those from economics universities should know what they need to study, how they should approach research studies and how to make sense of the research articles to be able to produce research report of this types when required.

## Chapter 1. Literature review

A brief review of the concepts of genre and research genre is made. Then it focuses on examining some detail Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) – the chosen framework for the research.

## Genre and Research Genre

Genre was defined by Swale (1990, 2001) as “comprises a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes. In addition to purpose, exemplars of a genre exhibit various patterns of similarities in terms of structure, style, content and intended audience”.

Regarding genre studies on research papers, there are works on different sections of research articles by Heslot (1982); Hopkins and Dudley Evan (1988); Swale (1990); Dudley Evan (1993) or the studies on different paragraphs in newspaper editorials by De Bolivar (1985). In terms of macro-structure of research articles, Bruce (1983) had a study on the generic structure of research articles and suggested an *Introduction-Method-Results-Discussion* (IMRD) format that follows the logical cycle of inductive inquiry. Swale (2005) confirmed, there are cases that show that RA is rarely simple narratives of investigations but complexly distanced reconstructions of research activities.

## 1.2. Systemic Functional Approach

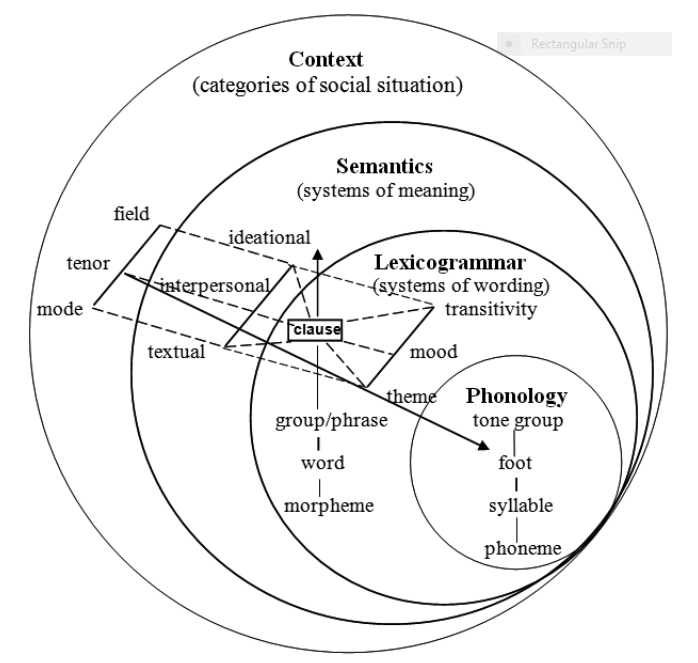
Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a model of language which was developed by M.A.K. Halliday. His linguistic theory draws on work by a number of eminent linguists such as Ferdinand de Saussure (1913, 1983), Hjelmsev (1961), Malinowski (1923, 1935) and Firth (1957, 1968).

SFL facilitates the exploration of meaning making of language via the text-based grammar tool. Thus, when a text is put under the analysis, it is essential to show the functional organization of the text structure, what meaningful choices have been made and each one seen in the context of what might have been meant but was not.

Halliday (2004:29) suggests two basic functions: *making sense of our own experience* and *acting out our social relationships*. Language construes human experience, providing lexico-grammatical resources to construe meanings and to perform the functions, including **ideational** meta-function (which are distinguished into **experiential** and **logical** meta-function) and enacting (our personal and social relationship with others around us) called **interpersonal** meta-function (to show that language is also interactive and personal). Furthermore, to facilitate the two aforementioned meta-functions, it is also essential to build up a sequence of discourse, organizing them into flows with cohesion and continuity. This meta-function is called **textual** meta-function.

## The Transitivity Model

To facilitate the comparison of the two sets of data, we need to explore and then to establish a common theoretical framework – the transitivity model. As a way of start, let us reproduce Figure 1 which is taken from Hoang Van Van (2020: 1) below:



**Figure 1.3:** **Systemic Functional Linguitics**

(Source, Hoang, 2020: 4)

Figure 1 shows that SFL is a comprehensive model of language which consists of four levels: context, semantics, lexicogrammar, and phonology/phonetics. Figure 1 also shows that transitivity – the focus of our comparative research – lies at the level of lexicogrammar.

### 1.3.1. Language and social context

Halliday (2004) confirms that the **context of culture** is the contextual potential of a community for meaning potential, an environment for meanings in which various semiotic systems operate. The **context of situation** is the context for particular instances, or context for language as a process. The context of situation will be varied with the three dimensions, and Halliday (2004) terms these three situational dimensions **field**, **tenor** and **mode**. They together create the basis for the development of taxonomy of situation as well as taxonomy of a text that functions in a context. The **Field of discourse** refers to what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place. The **Tenor of discourse** refers to who is taking part, to the nature of the participants, their statuses and roles. The **Mode of discourse** refers to what part the language is playing, what it is that the participants are expecting the language to do for them in that situation, the organization of the text, the status that it has, and its function in the context.

### 1.3.2. Semantics

Semantics is mainly referred to as the semantics of the clause and multi-strata (Halliday & Hassan, 1989), with the ideational semantics, interpersonal semantics and textual semantics. **Ideational semantics** is the representation of the ideational content of the clause or of the whole text. **Interpersonal semantics** has the speech functions at the clause level and at the discourse level it is the organization of sequences of speech acts into exchanges or turns. **The textual semantics** is concerned with how the text is organized as a message.

**1.3.3. Lexicogrammar**

In SFL, **grammar** is not merely the analysis of structures but the “words” and the various combinations of words to make meanings, hence it is **lexico-grammar** rather than just grammar as viewed by traditional grammarians. In other words, grammar in SFL is realized by the system of transitivity, system of mood and the system of theme. The **Transitivity** aims to describe the option of representational/ideational meaning, analyzing the clause in terms of who is doing what to whom. The **Mood** aims to describe the option of interpersonal meanings, analyzing the clause structure- a more traditional syntactic function. The **Theme** aims to describe the option of textual meanings, analyzing how different themes are structured to carry out the message.

### 1.3.4. The clause

Systemic Functional Grammar takes the “clause” as a unit of analysis. The clause in SFL is defined as a lexicogrammatical unit that provides more than any other unit a clear indication of the distinct line of structures which are associated with metafunctions. The clause carries three lines of meanings including: **Ideational meanings, Interpersonal meanings and The textual meanings as mentioned in 1.3.2. Ideational meanings is** subdivided into *experiential* and *logical* subfunctions or modes, with *experiential* refers to our experience of the goings-on in the world. This meta-function is analysed in terms of **transitivity system** or a choice of six processes with the participants and circumstances that go with the processes.

## 1.4. The Transitivity System in English

Transitivity is the grammatical system consisting of (1) processes unfolding through time, (2) participants involved in the processes, and (3) circumstances as attendant.

### 1.4.1. Processes and participants

The system has six processes namely *material, behavioural, mental, verbal, relational* and *existential:* **Material process** is the process of doing, construing doings and happenings. A material clause is characterized by structural configurations **Actor, Goal/Recipients + Process** + **Circumstances**. **Mental process,** also known as the process of sensing, is an internalized and conscious type of process which is subdivided into cognition, perception and affection. Mental process is configured as **Process + Senser + Phenomenon**. The Senser is “conscious being” and refers to a person, or a human collective product of human consciousness realized by a nominal group denoting a “potent” entity. **Relational process - process of being and having -** is concerned with the process of description, certifying and characterising. The configuration is **Carrier + Precess \_ Identifying/Attributive. Behavioural Process** relates the physiological and psychological behavior such as smiling, crying, laughing or breathing. The configuration is ***Behaver + Processes + Behaviour.* Verbal processes** are actually processes of ‘saying’ things. It can also be understood as a direct or indirect report, and it covers “any kind of symbolic exchange of meaning” in Halliday’s terms (1986, p.129). The configuration is **Sayer + Process + Verbiage**. **Existential process** is the process of existing or showing that something exists or happens. The configuration is There + Be/Exist/Arise ( or verbs that express existence).

### 1.4.2. The Circumstances

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:313) categorise Circumstances into main types:(1) ***Enhancing,*** subdivided into (a) *circumstance of extent* denoting the distance, duration, frequency, (b) *circumstance of location* specifying place, time, (c) *circumstance of manner* specifying means, quality, comparison and degree, (d) *circumstance of cause* specifying reason, purpose, and behalf, (e) *circumstance of contingency* detailing condition, and concession; (2) ***Extending***: to show a joint participation in the process and represents the meanings ‘and’, ‘or’ as circumstantial. (3) ***Elaborating***:to augment the configuration of processes + participant by specifying the role that participants take in the process. This type of participant construes the meaning of Guise *be* or Product *become; and (4)* ***Projection***: ***to*** project the Senser in Mental clause (Angle) and Sayer in Verbal clause (Matter).

## 1.5. The transitivity system in Vietnamese

### 1.5.1. Processes and participants

### Hoang Van Van also assumes six kinds of processes in Vietnamse as postulated by Halliday (1985, 1994, 2004, 2014) but while Halliday terms processes Doing, Sensing and Being, Hoang Van Van organizes the six options under three major headings including (1) Doing processes (subdivided into Material and Behavioural processes) (2) Projecting processes (subdivided into Mental and Verbal processes), and (3) Being processes (subdivided into Relational and Existential processes). He suggested the structure and how to distinguish among the various types.

### 1.5.2. Circumstance in Vietnamese

While Halliday (2004) categorises circumstances into nine types (cf. 1.4.3), Hoang Van Van (2012) distinguishes circumstances from participants in terms of how this part is realized, its mobility, in terms of inherency. Hoang (2012) classifies circumstances into Circumstance of Extent, of Location, of Manner, of Cause, of Accompaniment, of Matter, of Role and Stance. However, in terms of subtypes, they are similar.

## 1.6. Impersonality

The transitivity offers a syntactic resource for the representation of participants. This allows for explicit intervention of authority or impersonal distancing, aiming at achieving ‘objectification’ of research articles. Another way to present impersonality that contributes to the creation of the effects of the absence of rhetoric characteristics is the removal of explicit agency (Halliday & Martin, 1993 P.52). The removal of explicit agency can be achieved by either **ergative** constructions or **passive voice structure**s (Lyons, 1986; Synclair, 1990 as cited in Martinez, 2001), or processes with **inanimate subjects** (Master, 1991).

### 1.6.1. Ergativity

Halliday (1970, 1985) takes a semantic approach to view Ergativity as an aspect of meaning which may be expressed through a range of lexico-grammatical choices. This involves a reinterpretation of Ergativity in terms of semantic concept of causation.

### 1.6.2. Passive Voice

Halliday (2004, 2014) confirms that the expression of voice is that of tense. The active voice has no explicit marker and the passive is expressed by *be* or get plus passive participle. The difference is, the roles are mapped onto the interpersonal functions in the modal structure of the clause. In the ‘operative” form, the Actor is mapped onto the subject*,* so subjectis the Theme, also the Central participant in this Material process, receiving the focus of the process. The Goal is mapped to the Complement.

## 1.7. Review of Previous Studies on SFL and Transitivity Analysis

Đỗ Tuấn Minh (2007), Nguyễn thị Minh Tâm’s (2013), Shuyuan et al. (2014), Hoang Van Van (2020), Võ Thị Bê’s study (2020) have studies from SFL but none of them have investigated into the experiential meanings of economics specialised journal articles.

## 1.8. Economics Discourse

Economics discourse uses ‘expert grammar’ for reasoning (Halliday, 1987), and is characterized by the use of abstract language in writing like metaphor, metonymy, personification, and nominalization, leaving gaps in the message (Mason, 1990), the use of terminology and the use of reference to other semiotic system including mathematic for modeling (Mc. Closkey, 1986).

## Chapter 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Research methodology

- In this study, the major research design adopted is the corpus-based qualitative method with the application of computational tools for data storing and analysis. The comparative method is used to answer the question what are the similarities and differences in the experiential meanings of the English and Vietnamese specialised journals. Combined with the comparative method is descriptive and qualitative methods used to describe how the processes, participants as well as the circumstances in the clause are employed to express the experiential meanings in the journals of the two languages.

- This study, though set out to compare the similarities and differences in transitivity used in the journals, the specific steps are to described and compare each part of all the journals. This is because each part of the research article can be considered a mini discourse having specific aims and purposes.

- As for cross-lingual comparative research, the researcher has to decide on a starting point for the comparison. In this case, the English Specialised Economic Journals are chosen as the starting point, or ***the base language*** and the Vietnamese corpus will be the comparative one.

Additionally, the research also employs other methods including qualitative method for the data collecting, counting and analyzing processes, and circumstances, structures showing the subjects or participants, and other ergative structure which is related to transitivity system. Data processing is done with the use of SysFan developed by Wu, as a computational tool for separating clause and clause complexes, processes and circumstance marking, storing and analysing the data.

### 2.2. Data collection

- The ten English articles are chosen from three leading Anglo-American economic specialized journals: *American Economics Journal*, *The Journal of Economic Growth*, and *Journal of International Economics*.. The Vietnamese journals are also taken from Vietnam's most prestigious economic journals written by Vietnamese researchers. These include 10 papers from *Nghiên Cứu Kinh Tế, Kinh tế và Phát triển, Phát Triển Kinh Tế.*

- The economics journal articles are updated journal articles.

- They all have Introduction – Research \_ Method\_ Discussion (IRMD) structures.

- Unit of analysis is the ranking clause of the articles.

## Chapter 3. Results and Findings: Transitivity in Economics Specialised Journals Articles in English (EESJs)

In this chapter, the experiential meanings of economics specialised journals articles in English are explored based on the theoretical framework set up in the previous chapter. Then the experiential meanings of economics specialised economics journal articles in Vietnamese is taken into consideration (chapter 4), based on the SFL framework by Halliday (1994, 2004, 2014) and the “language-specific regions” established for Vietnamese language by Hoang Van Van (2004, 2012).

## 3.1. Processes in the EESJs

In this part,an analysis of each part was made, but within the limit of a summary, the following remarks are made:

- All processes are used but at various concentration,

- Material percentage is highest in the Abstract, and Introduction and Method to enable researchers to establish their Doings in the research and the happenings or going-ons in the economies.

- In most parts, Relational processes seem highest in most sections, except in the Abstract.

In total, it accounts for 35.55%.

- Verbal and Mental processes are next most used in each part (at around more than 10%), to state, suggest, propose and show cognition and perception of the economic processes, followed by Existential processes at 3- 4% to denote the existence of economic happening or other research factors.

### The central participants in these processes are Doer, Actors, Be-ers, Sensers or Sayers and Existents at corresponding percentages.

## 3.2. Animate and inanimate subjects/participants in EESJs

This part investigates the use of subjects as central participants in processes in each of the section via the frequency of various structures namely *Active + Agent, passive + Agent,* Passive without Agent, Active with inanimate subjects and Ergative.

Findings show that inanimate subjects Inanimate subjects are actually the economic indicators/issues/data/facts/features- the subject matter of that research articles are used at the highest percentages in each section, and increase as over each part, while active agentive subjects, which are *We, the author, the researchers* and names of other researcher in the fields of study, are second most frequent at the beginning and decrease as the research proceeds. This is because in the first sections, the authors use active to establish their status to do the research, of to mention names of other author to create a space for their current research. High percentage of nanimate subjects in active voice (around 50%-60%), plus that in passive voice (12.52%) structures, passive without agent, 0.11% passive with agent, 1.28% inanimate subjects in ergative structures, create a sense of objectivity for the research.

**3.3. Circumstances in EESJs**

All types of circumstances are found in all sections and the highest ones found at work are circumstance of Location (51.67%), Manner (6.83%) and Cause (12.15%), followed by Contingency (2.4%), Accompaniment (3.1%), Matter (1.26%) and extent (1%). The use of circumstance enables the researcher to enhance, elaborate, extent or project processes, specifying when, where, how, in what manner, under what circumstance and from what stance/angle the processes or research implementation or the economic processes unfold. This creates a sense of precision, validity and referenced-based for the EESJs.

## 3.4. Discussion and Summary

All experiential resources are used in EESJs: Material and Relational occur most frequently showing the experiences of doing the research by authors, the happenings and relationship among economic factors. Relational with inanimate active subjects, and Material passive form is used to create distance to the research and maintain objectivity and validity. This can be reinforced by dominant number of impersonal subjects/participants. Circumstance of Location, Manner, Cause are used most with the addition of other types to enhance the eligibility, precision, validity and referenced-based of the research. These are very much the qualities of a typical research article that any researcher heads for.

## Chapter 4. Results and Findings: Transitivity in Economics Specialised Journals Articles in Vietnamese (VESJs)

## Chapter 4 investigates what and how experiential resources in Vietnamese are use in VESJs based on the framework developed by Hoang Van Van (2012), which is also based on SFL by Halliday.

## 4.1. Processes in Vietnamese economics specialised journals.

Findings shows that all process types are used in all sections of the VESJs with the highest ones being Relational processes (at 43.84%), followed by Material processes at 28.17%. Verbal and Mental come next at respectively 13.57% and 9.77% respectively. Existential processes account for 3.52% and Behavioral occur very little.

The high Relational processes used to characterize and identify economic agents/factors/ data/problems is one way the research uses to step backward to distance themselves from the research. Added to this is the high material processes used to maintain objectivity for the research.

**4.2. Animate and inanimate subjects/participants in VESJs**

This part investigates the use of subject/participants via various structures, including *Active + Inanimate, Active Agent, Passive Agentless, Passive + Agent,* Ergative, *There + be* structures in each of the VESJs section.

Findings show that inanimate or agentive subject structures are highest, playing an essential role expressing of the central participants of the processes and in reflecting the authors’ objectivity level. The investigation illustrates very low frequency of use of *Active voice + Animate Subject* structures in all VESJs. Only 18.4% of all the processes has the central participants being animate or human and these actually refer to the “WE” – the authors or researchers of the articles. This also means more than 80% of the clauses are passive voice, used in the forms of *Passive + agent*, *Passive + agentless* (11,84%), *Active + inanimate subject , Ergative* (1.29%) and *There + be* structures (2.79%). The high frequency use of the passive voice obviously means the intentional distancing that the authors create to confirm the objectivity of their studies, the precision of the analysis, which are independent of any subjective thoughts.

## 4.3. Circumstances in VESJs

## Investigation of circumstances in each of the VESJS section show that circumstance of Location is mostly use, followed by Manner, then Cause and Contingency. However, Manners are more frequently used in Abstracts and Conclusions to introduce and wrap up the manner of researches. Location specifies when and where researches are done or the economic processes unfold. All circumstances enhance the precision, validity and referenced-based of processes unfold in the VESJs.

## 4.4. Discussion and Summary

Overall, the exploration of transitivity resources in VESJs shows that they are condensely written, and informative. Moreover, the Vietnamese researchers use the highest number of Relational processes with high inanimate subject structures (meaning high impersonality) as a technique to distance themselves from any possible happenings in the economies or from any result of research activities. In so doing, they aim to achieve impersonality, objectivity and validity in their research activities. Next, the high frequency of Active + inanimate structures in VESJs is also a technique employed by Vietnamese researchers to conceal the causality, revealing high degree of in-negotiability in their research. Furthermore, the use of various circumstances in processes is a way that researchers enhance, and elaborate the information either related to the participants or the processes themselves, which enables them to achieve persuasion via the precision, argumentation, justifications and referenced-based methods.

Chapter 5. Results and Findings: Similarities and Differences between The Way Experiential Meanings Are Expressed in EESJs and VESJs

## 5.1. Process types

This part compares the similarities and differences of the EESJs and VESJs in each of the sections in terms of processes.

# Table 5.1: Process types in the EESJs and VESJs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Processes** | **Material** | **Behav** | **Mental** | **Verbal** | **Rela** | **Exist** | **Total** |
| **English** | 35.82% | 0.85% | 11.78% | 12.56% | 35.01% | 3.98% | 100% |
| **Vietnamese** | 28.17% | 1.14% | 9.77% | 13.57% | 43.84% | 3.52% | 100% |

Both corpora have highest concentration of Material and Relational processes (referred to as groups 1), with 35.82% and 35.01% for English and 28.17%, and 13.57% for Vietnamese, respectively. The second mostly used are Verbal and Mental, at 12.56% and 11.78% respectively for English and 13.57% and 9.77% respectively for Vietnamese. Noticeably, both English and Vietnamese author use more Verbal processes than Mental ones. The least frequently used are Existential and Behavioural one, at around under 4% for Existential and around 1% for Behavioural. Both use more Existential processes than Behavioural ones. The differences can be seen in group one and three. While the English tend to use more Material than Vietnamese author, Vietnamese authors tend to choose more Relational processes.

Specifically, the investigation into each section of the RAs of both corpora shows similarities as follows,

In both of the corpora, the distribution of the processes in each section manifests the regularities that characterises the generic structure of a research article and of each part of the research articles.

As RAs, high proportions of Material processes are used in each section of both corpora to, especially in Abstracts and Conclusions to describe the happenings in the economies, the researchers’ doings/impacts on the economic problem/matters. Noticeably, Relational constructions dominate each of the sections of the articles in both languages; especially in all other parts of the RAs, meanwhile these constructions are highly impersonal, which brings the sense of objectivity to persuade the readers of the validity of the research. This is actually the quality found in both of the corpora.

Verbal and Mental processes are second mostly used in every section of both to suggest, present, propose, comment and express cognition and perception of the going-ons in economic processes or research processes.

Existential occurs at around 2-4% of all process to unfold the existence of economic processes or research processes. Behavioural Processes account for a tiny proportion in each section of both languages, which is also typical for the scientific language. This is because experiences in the RAs of both corpora are to report the happenings in economic situations and relations among economic agents/matters.

The differences can also be noticed:

- English authors tend to apply more Material and Mental than Vietnamese ones in most sections while Vietnamese authors choose to use more Verbal and Relational to state the aim, purpose and suggestion and to characterize and identify their research report in this Abstracts.

- Vietnamese authors often set the scene by discussing generally the contexts for the research using more Verbals like *khái quá, đưa ra,, giới thiệu,, cho thấy, gợi ý, trình bày, thảo luận* to discuss the aim and purpose of their research, which sounds more tentative. In the English articles, after generally discussing the situation or problems, the authors seem to favour processes like *find, note, assume, estimate, address*, ... apart from Verbal processes such as *explain, discuss or show*.

## 5.2. Animate and inanimate subjects/participants in EESJs and VESJs

This part shows similarities and differences in the occurrences of various types of subjects in various structures including active agentive, active inanimate subjects, passive agentive and passive agentless, and ergative structures in every section of the RAs in both languages.

In terms of the use of subjects in various structures, inanimate subject/participant types account for the highest percentage (59.75% in English and 64.15% in Vietnamese) then come agentive subjects or human participants. Passive structures account for around 13% in English and in Vietnamese (including without and without agentive participants) Ergative structures account for more than 1% leaving around similar proportion of more than 2% ò There +be in both languages.

The differences is English tend to use more agentive subjects/participants in most sections the articles, and from the observation, most are *we* and *the author*, the researchers and sometimes the names of other researchers in their articles. Thus, the percentage of inanimate subjects tends to be lower than in Vietnamese articles. On the other hand, Vietnamese researchers tend to use less frequent agentive subject as *we* to address, instead they use both passive voice and active voice with the subjects being *this research, this paper*. This explains why in passive structures and active inanimate structures seem to be higher in Vietnamese corpus as compared to that in the English one.

## 5.3. Circumstances in EESJs and VESJs

In this part, a discussion of the similarities and differences in the use of circumstances in each section of the RAs in both languages is made.

In terms of similarities, following remarks can be made:

- In every part of the sections of both corpora, circumstance of Location, Manner and Cause occur most frequently, followed by second group including Contingency, Accompaniment, Matter and Stance/Angle. Both of RAs use a high number of circumstances of Location of time and places to achieve the preciseness of when and where the actions take place. Both use high frequency of circumstances of manner of qualities to further describe the qualities of the activities, manner of means (by means of prepositional phrases to enhance the information of how an action is done, high concentration of circumstances of cause to justify, rationalise, and to inform the purposes of the actions, circumstance of contingency for specification of the conditions in which the activities occur.

-Though circumstances of role, matter, stance are used less frequently in both corpora, they are used when the researchers want to confirm the role of something in their actions or of some factors in the economy, or to establish a ground for their statements via the circumstances of angle or stance.

The differences can be seen in the specific distribution of circumstance types in each of the sections of both corpora. It is also noticeable that circumstances of Location is much higher every section of EESJS than in sections of VESJs. Circumstance of Matter and Angle/stance seem lower in English compared to that in Vietnamese

## 5.4. Discussion and summary

The investigation shows that the English and Vietnamese articles share more similarities in the way, the types and the frequencies of experiential resources they use in their RAs.

Particularly, both use all types of processes; subject structures and various circumstance types. Both corpora use highest Relational and Material processes, inanimate subjects and Circumstances of Location, Manner and Causes. In this way, both groups of researchers can maintain objectivity, impersonality thus enable the validity of their own research. This quality of research articles are also achieved by the way the researches use passive structures, to implicitly mention the Actors/Sayers/Sensers. Added to this are the similar percentages of ergative structures in both corpora with the subjects/participants being the economic indicators/factors/agents. These processes in these ergative structures indicate the going-ons in the economies beyond the desire of anyone in the economies.

Furthermore, both of the corpora use high degree of economic terms and jargon. These term and jargon are actually the participants in various economic processes and both the authors of both corpora provide not further definitions. Understandably, the economic specialised journals are aimed to report the outcomes of economic analysis to the participants of scientific community, thus the assumption is that the reader has high expertise in the area and no further explanation of economic terms are necessary as the scientific textbooks for school students or magazines for the general readers.

There are obviously disparities in experiential meanings between the two set of corpus. Particularly, there are differences in the distribution of experiential resources (processes, participants and circumstances) in the two corpora. First, English authors use more Material processes to express the experience of their actions. Thus Material process frequency is higher in almost every section of the English papers than that in Vietnamese counterparts while Vietnamese researchers use more Relational processes in each section of their articles. Vietnamese authors utilise more Verbal processes and fewer Mental processes compared to English authors. Though both discuss intentions, the two seem to express themselves in different ways. To compensate for the lower percentage active agentive subjects, Vietnamese researchers use more active inanimate subject structures. The reason is when it comes to establishing the space for the current research, Vietnamese authors use *các nghiên cứu trước chỉ ra rằng, lý thuyết thành công chỉ ra rằng, lý thuyết chi phí chìm nhấn mạnh rằng* (*many previous studies show that, Success theory shows that, sinking expense theory emphasise…)* as the central participants in Verbal processes while authors of English corpus use names of other authors.

# CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

# 1. Recapitulation

This thesis has been devoted to investigating the experiential meanings expressed in English and Vietnamese economic research articles via the analysis of transitivity. The research questions are thus *How are experiential meanings expressed via the transitivity system in the English and Vietnamese economic research articles? What are similarities and differences in the ways the experiential meanings expressed in the two languages?*

To answer the research questions, the researcher reviews generally literature of genres and research genres before making detailed review of SFL and transitivity system in both languages in Chapter 1. Then the author discusses study methodology, data collection ans analysis in Chapter 2. The study method is corpus based linguistic with descriptive (to describe how experiential resources are used) and comparative method (to compare the two data sets). Added is the quantitative method to quantify the experiential resources in each section of the RAs in the corpora. The detailed description and analysis of experiential resources in EESJs is made in Chapter 3 and that for VESJs in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 compares the similarities and differences in the ways experiential resources are used to express experiential meanings in both corpora.

The exploration and comparison of the two sets of data shows that the operation of experiential/transitivity resources in economic RAs do reflect the experiential meanings via the goings-on in the economic world, the flows of economic processes (events, problems, situations that need dealing with), or the quantum of changes in the micro and macro-economic system, as well as and the necessary impacts from the researchers that bring about a quantum of changes. In both sets of the economic RAs, the major experiential resources (**Participants, Processes, and Circumstances)** are used at quite similar percentages. In both sets of corpora, the **Participants** (whether being central participants as Actors, Sensors, Sayers, Be-ers, Existents or the Goals, the Phenomena) are economics factors/indicators/events, and the researchers/authors or the proper names of several economic researchers. The **Processes** that unfold through time are realised by verbs denoting the ***Happenings*** in the economies, the ***Doings*** by economic agents or by the researchers, the ***Sensing*** (saying, thinking, feelings, seeing) by the researchers or economic participants in the macro and micro-economies, the **Beings** (having attribute, having identity, unfolding inertly of the economic factors/agents/ issues or of the research,) and ***Havings*** (relationships with) of the economic factors/agents/ issues or of the research. The **Circumstances** arethe settings for economic processes as well as the settings for the research activities.

Both sets of corpora use Ergative, (though at similarly low percentages) to express the changes in economic situations or the changes of economic indicators/factors which are beyond the expectation and control of anyone in the economy, including the economic researchers. This is technique used by the writers to maintain the distance from him/her and the Happenings in the research and the economy.

Both sets of economic journals use high frequency of Relational and Material processes. As mentioned earlier, Relational structures with inanimate subject and a finite verb enables the high objectivity, generalisations, evaluation and interpretation and impersonality of the writing. The Central Participants are again the economic factors/agents and the processes unfold the flow of events in the economies in terms of being, impacting or relating to other factors. Material processes are also high with passive agentless structures or inanimate structures are also another way that researchers express the Doing by the researchers without mentioning their roles, and the Going-ons in the economy. Material processes with active animate structures are found relatively frequently at work in certain sections like in the abstract, introduction of Methodology, where there is a necessity of interpersonal interactions and negotiation between the writers and readers, and here the writers/researchers confirm the responsibility they take.

Both sets of corpora maintain the qualities of research articles, which are rich in information, precise, full of arguments and justification, objective and referenced-based. This can be seen in the way the economic researchers of both languages use circumstances of location (to answer question where and when a process unfolds), causes (why and for what a process unfolds), manner (how a process unfolds), contingency (under what circumstance or in which condition a process unfolds), stance/angle (which sources provide the information).

Differences can be found when the analysis comes to more delicate levels, i.e. in terms of specific percentages of processes, structures reflecting Central participants, and circumstances. For example, to discuss the intentions and the purposes of what is to be done in the research, Vietnamese researchers choose to use Verbal processes like *generalise, suggest, present, show, discuss*… the English researchers choose Mental processes like *find, note, assume, estimate*... in another example in terms of the use of circumstances, Vietnamese writers tend to choose to persuade the readers of their credibility, reliability and validity by using more referenced-based information via circumstances of angle and stance, while English writers prefer to show precision by exceptionally higher percentage of circumstances of Location (of time and place). All these may be due to culture-specific reasons but beyond the scope of this study, thus no further discussion of reasons is made here.

In short, though differences are found in the types and frequency of specific processes, structures and circumstances, both corpora utilise all possible experiential resources to express the going-ons, the flows of events in the micro and macro-economic systems and the experiences of their research activities. At the same time, all researchers of both corpora tend to make attempts to use the experiential resources in the ways that enable them to maintain the informativeness, objectivity, validity, impersonality, argumentation and justification- the qualities of research papers- in their own RAs.

# 2. Implications of the study

The study has a number of implications in terms of the theory, the application of analytical framework, methodology, application of computational tools and the findings. Additionally, the study has also implications for new researchers, interpreters and economics students as well.

Theoretically, the use of SFL as a framework for the analysis of both English and Vietnamese has proved that SFL provides a flexible framework for the description and analysis language as its aim: describing the systems of language as a whole. This means it can be applied for the analysis of many other languages. At the same time, SFL is a comprehensive and strictly logical framework serving for both the general analysis and comparison of languages and delicate aspects of languages.

It is also realised that, the author ‘inherit’ the studies on generic structure and other features of RAs from genre theory by Swale and use SFL theory to explore how researchers use experiential resources are used in the RAs to achieve their aims in their research. Though seen from a different angle, the features of RAs can still be perceived rather than a clash between the two frameworks.

In terms of methodology, the steps taken for this current study can also be applied to other descriptive, comparative studies. Corpus-based approach, especially specialised corpus (as the one used in this research) has proved to work well in describing and comparing languages in terms of their features, functions and purposes.

In terms of the application of computational tools, SysFan has proved to be effective in separating clauses, and its components, storing, calculating for final description and comparison. This tool has enabled the time and energy savings as well as higher accuracy in the process of storing and calculating the data.

In terms of findings, the similarities between EESJs and VESJs in terms of schematic structures and the use of experiential resources by economics scholars to achieve their aims show that the research genre seem similar across the languages and the ways the researchers employ experiential resources to express their research experience and to maintain objectivity, impersonality and validity are similar. Differences can be realised when the analysis and comparison come to a more delicate level and these differences may originate from the language itself or the culture of the writers.

As for new researchers, this study can be of some help in the understanding and reporting of the experiences they may undergo or the general purposes they may want to achieve by means of experience resources.

Economics students who have inspiration for reading, understanding and reporting such economics researches (either in English or Vietnamese) can be more aware of the language of RAs in their area, and how to interpret the experiential resources in the RAs they come up with.

# 3. Limitations of the research

It would be ideal if the corpus includes more research articles for each type of language since a larger corpus may reveal further similarities and differences between the two sets of data that have not been discovered from this research.

Second, as a text can have three ways of interpretation, from three angles of meanings, including ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings, thus investigations of interpersonal and textual meanings area worthwhile also.

Next, this study has focused only on the clause as the core unit. Further exploration into clause complexes, and logico-semantic relations of the clause complexes in the text, or an investigation into rank-shifted clauses (which account for quite a large number) may indicate further features and meanings of these types of texts.

Another aspect related to the exploitation of transitivity resources in economics RAs is grammatical metaphor, which is worth exploring but has not been touched on due to the limitation of the time and expertise of the researcher.

Lastly, it is a wish that a computational tool similar to SysFans could be available to the researcher for the separation, calculation and storing of data for time saving, and possibly, a further accuracy in the separation and calculation processes and circumstances in the Vietnamese corpus.

# 4. Recommendation for further research

The current research focuses on the experiential meanings in economic specialised Journal articles in English and Vietnamese. Hopefully, further research can be carried out on a wider range of articles from both languages. Other research into the interpersonal and/or textual meanings expressed in these Journal articles can also be worth considering. It is also a hope that an analysis into the application of grammatical metaphor in the corpus is made, which will further enlighten the deep meanings hidden in such information-rich texts.

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