

Conflation Patterns Of Vietnamese Verbs A Cognitive Perspective

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Abstract

In order to represent complex events or conflation patterns, Vietnamese verbs that conflate are examined in this study for their semantic components. The lexicalization patterns presented by Talmy, L (2000), the semantic structure clarified by Jackendoff, R (1990), and the frame semantics postulated by Fillmore, C (1970) serve as the theoretical underpinnings of this study. This study sheds light on the blending of conceptual categories in Vietnamese verbs through empirical data. It focuses on the analysis of these conceptual categories, which include Action, Cause, Manner, Motion, Path, Perception, Position, and Location, within Vietnamese conflation patterns. The research investigates the combinability of these conceptual categories and provides a thorough comprehension of verb argument structures. It is anticipated that the analysis of Vietnamese conflation pattern typologies would add to the field's linguistic background. Examining conflation patterns also makes it easier to understand the underlying conceptualizations and cultural influences that influence language usage.

Keywords: Conflation patterns; conceptual categories, argument structures; and semantic elements.

I. Introduction

Conflation patterns in language refer to the systematic combinations or amalgamations of different semantic components to form the meaning of words or expressions. These patterns involve the merging or blending of distinct features or concepts, resulting in the creation of new lexical units or the alteration of existing ones. Conflation patterns are particularly relevant in the study of lexicalization, which investigates how words acquire their meanings and semantic structures (Talmy 1985, 2000). Talmy proposed a comprehensive theory of lexicalization patterns that explores the conflation of diverse elements to generate the semantics of root verbs. For example, motion verbs can exhibit conflation patterns by combining motion with path (e.g., *enter*, *descend*) or motion with manner (e.g., *run*,

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swim). He adds that conflation patterns are concerned with the systematic relationships in language between meaning and surface elements. This is, a combination of semantic elements can be expressed by a single surface element, or single semantic elements by a combination of surface elements (Talmy 2000: 22). By examining conflation patterns, language researchers can gain insights into the cognitive processes underlying language production and comprehension because these patterns reveal the systematic ways in which different semantic components are combined and how they contribute to the overall meaning of words and phrases.

In addition, the fundamental aim of lexical semantic theory is to specify lexical meanings in terms of semantic components and the combinatory relationships between them. Various elements of lexical semantics converge on the idea that each meaning of a word may be explained in terms of a group of more universal meaning components, or all of which are shared by groups of lexemes within a language or across languages. In other words, meaning elements that may or may not be lexicalized in a given language can be identified. Language-specific lexicalization patterns can be identified through the identification of the meaning components that define classes of words in a language and the potential combinations of such components within word roots. Furthermore, each combination of meaning components and the syntactic constructions permitted by the words showing them strongly correlate (e.g., Talmy 1985; Jackendoff 1983, 1990).

Recently, there has been a tendency toward tackling the issues of:

- i. recognizing lexical meaning elements inside verb roots;
- ii. establishing a link between particular features identifying semantic classes of verbs and the syntactic characteristics of the verbs themselves.

Lexical entries include distinct types of information, semantic and syntactic, which is referred to as lexical conceptual structure (Jackendoff 1983, 1990) or as the thematic core whose meaning is represented, particularly aspects of meaning having consequences for other areas of the grammar (Pinker 1989). On other accounts, the meaning of a lexical item can be broken down into semantic primitives or conceptual categories including THING, EVENT, STATE, PATH, PLACE, PROPERTY, and MANNER (Pinker 1989: 208). These different semantic primitives combine into words termed **conflation patterns**. The term and its work are clearly defined by Fawcett (2000: 240).

*An element gets **conflated** with another element. If element X is conflated with element Y, X occurs in the structure immediately after and fused with Y, so that X and Y function as one element.*

It is the concept of conflation that expresses the multifunctional nature of language, so the research of word meaning was what inspired many studies (e.g., Hjelmslev 1961; Greimas 1966; Pottier 1974, Jackendoff 1983, 1990; Pinker 1989; Talmy 2000). These studies attempted to find semantic components shared by groups of words by observing the paradigmatic relationships between words, despite differences in the precise hypotheses put forth. The semantic elements mentioned in the various approaches distinguish one set of words from another as well as one word from another by combining them in different ways.

Conflation patterns play a significant role in shaping the meaning and expression of concepts in languages worldwide. Vietnamese, with its rich linguistic heritage, exhibits distinct conflation patterns that contribute to the formation of word meanings and the conveyance of complex ideas. By examining the conflation patterns in Vietnamese, we gain insights into the systematic ways in which different semantic components are combined or conflated, shedding light on the structure and usage of the language. The Vietnamese language features a range of conflation patterns that influence the formation of verb meanings, aspectual distinctions, and noun phrase constructions. These conflation patterns involve the merging or blending of various linguistic elements, such as adverbs, aspectual markers, classifiers, and more. Through these conflation processes, Vietnamese speakers are able to express nuanced information, including manner, aspect, temporal aspects, and categorical distinctions. Exploring conflation patterns in Vietnamese offers valuable insights into the cognitive and linguistic processes involved in the formation and comprehension of meaning. It provides a window into how Vietnamese speakers conceptualize and communicate ideas through the combination and conflation of semantic elements. By studying these patterns, we gain a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between language, cognition, and the representation of meaning in Vietnamese.

2. Theoretical background

2.1. Semantic Aspects of Predicates

Lâm Quang Đông's (2007) investigation into post-structuralist linguistics during the latter decades of the 20th century reveals a departure from traditional linguistic boundaries. This shift, as expounded by Lâm Quang Đông (2007), signifies a move away from

rigid logical frameworks towards a nuanced exploration of language's functional and contextual dimensions. At the core of this evolution lies the intricate examination of sentence semantics, with a particular focus on the intricate dynamics of multivalent verbs. Notably, Lâm Quang Đông (2007) introduces the concept of predicate valency, underscoring its pivotal role in shaping the interplay between core predicates and surrounding semantic elements, thereby intricately influencing the fabric of sentence semantics. A significant contribution emerges through the analysis of predicates associated with acts of bestowal or conferral, serving as fundamental linguistic building blocks and laying the groundwork for subsequent semantic constructs. Lâm Quang Đông (2007) advocates for comprehensive research, suggesting the application of innovative methodologies informed by contemporary linguistic advancements. This approach not only addresses semantic complexities within sentence structures but also facilitates cross-linguistic comparisons, unveiling insights into the symbiotic relationship between language and culture, particularly within the contexts of English and Vietnamese discourse. From a practical perspective, Lâm Quang Đông (2007) underscores the tangible benefits of studying sentence structures featuring multivalent giving predicates. This examination aids language learners, especially Vietnamese learners of English, in navigating the intricacies of sentence formation, enhancing their proficiency in communication. In conclusion, Lâm Quang Đông's (2007) insights enrich post-structuralist linguistics by illuminating the pivotal role of multivalent predicates in sentence semantics, bridging theoretical exploration and practical language learning implications.

2.2. Argument fusion

In "The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century," Steven Pinker underscores the significance of argument fusion as a crucial component of effective writing. He emphasizes the art of seamlessly integrating multiple viewpoints, evidence, or concepts within a piece of writing to construct a coherent and compelling argument. Pinker argues that argument fusion involves structuring and presenting ideas in a logical and organized manner. He highlights the importance of avoiding disjointed or confusing narratives by carefully transitioning between different points. Pinker contends that successful argument fusion enhances the reader's understanding and engagement, ultimately leading to a more persuasive and impactful piece of writing. Furthermore, Pinker's argument centers on the idea that context and audience awareness play a pivotal role in achieving successful argument fusion. He suggests that writers should consider the reader's perspective and prior knowledge when blending different arguments. By tailoring the fusion

of ideas to the reader's background and expectations, writers can create a more relatable and convincing narrative. Throughout the book, Pinker supports his argument with illustrative examples from various fields and writing styles. He showcases instances of effective argument fusion, where disparate ideas are skillfully combined to form a cohesive whole. These examples serve to reinforce Pinker's assertion that mastering argument fusion is essential for writers aiming to communicate their ideas with clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness.

2. Theoretical frameworks

Our cognitive functions, as well as our perceptual and interpretative faculties of the outside world, are inextricably entwined with language, which is a multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon unique to humans. The complex mechanisms and structures underlying the encoding and comprehension of meaning within language have long piqued the interest of linguists and cognitive scientists. Numerous prominent ideas have surfaced throughout the academic discourse, each with the ability to shed light on these complexities and offer different viewpoints on language's mode of operation and its fundamental connection to human cognition.

2.1. Jackendoff's semantic structures

The exploration of conflation patterns plays a significant role in revealing the complex interplay between semantic representations and linguistic expressions in Jackendoff's *Semantic Structures* (1983, 1990). Conflation patterns describe how many conceptual aspects or semantic roles are combined or amalgamated inside a single linguistic statement, such as a verb or verb phrase. In his examination, Jackendoff delves into the area of argument structure conflation, where semantic roles like subjects and objects can be combined to simplify the representation of intricate events or conditions. This theory also looks at the conflation patterns verbs display, embodying several mental components in their meaning. For instance, a single word may combine the path of motion and the mode of conveyance, or it may confuse the manner of an activity with its outcome. Jackendoff sheds light on how speakers arrange and bundle information when expressing complicated acts or events by examining the construal of ideas and the cognitive implications of such conflation. Jackendoff admits that words can be broken down into their underlying semantic primitives or features within the context of lexical decomposition. The way these primitives are combined within lexical elements to produce certain meanings reveals conflation tendencies. The study of conflation patterns by Jackendoff has implications for both interlanguage variation and language universals. The many conflation techniques seen in various linguistic systems provide insight

into how various linguistic systems encode similar or connected semantic information. The theory also emphasizes how language use may result in conflation patterns when particular combinations of semantic functions become more common and established in particular formulations over time.

In conclusion, the examination of conflation patterns in Jackendoff's Semantic Structures deepens our knowledge of how semantics and language expression interact. The theory emphasizes the function of cognitive processes in forming language by examining how conflation functions within argument structures, verb semantics, and lexical decomposition. The effects of conflation patterns on cognition, as well as their role in language universals and cross-linguistic variance, show how dynamic and adaptable linguistic representations are when it comes to expressing complex meaning and promoting effective communication.

2.2. Talmy's lexicalization patterns

The significance of conflation patterns in comprehending how languages encode motion events is emphasized by Talmy's notion of lexicalization patterns. Conflation happens in satellite-framed languages when the primary verb is combined with the event's manner and motion path to create a more concise description of the action. In a Satellite-framed language, for instance, a single verb can include information on both walking and the movement's direction. Contrarily, conflation takes a different shape in verb-framed languages, where the mode of motion is stored in the primary verb and the path or direction is conveyed independently. The manner and path are handled as separate linguistic units, resulting in longer expressions for motion occurrences as a result of the division of the motion components. It is useful to understand how speakers conceptualize and encode information about motion events in different linguistic systems by comparing the differences in conflation patterns between languages.

Insights into the cognitive processes involved in language generation and comprehension are revealed by the investigation of conflation patterns, which has consequences for cognition. Cognitive characteristics like processing ease or the prominence of various motion components may have an impact on the choice of conflation approach within a language. Conflation patterns also reveal systematic variations in language encoding of motion information, which has typological consequences. While other languages may favor greater separation, some may show a predilection for significant conflation. Talmy's study of these patterns adds to our knowledge of linguistic principles and the capacity of the human language to convey sophisticated spatial and motion notions.

Language typology and cognitive semantics have greatly benefited from Talmy's idea of lexicalization patterns. The idea clarifies the underlying connection between language, cognition, and culture by explaining how languages deal with motion events through conflation patterns. Our understanding of the many ways that speakers construct and convey spatial and motion information is enriched by the study of conflation patterns, which also serves as a useful framework for comparative and cross-linguistic linguistics research.

2.4. Goldberg's construction grammar

The study of conflation patterns is a key component of Construction Grammar in Adele Goldberg's 1995 study "Constructions: A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure". Conflation patterns refer to the blending or amalgamation of many conceptual components or semantic functions inside a single language utterance, generally a verb or verb phrase. His study explores how these conflation patterns contribute to the construction-specific aspect of language, illuminating the effective use of various elements by speakers to communicate meaning. Argument structure conflation, in which distinct formulations may combine or conflate various semantic roles or arguments within a single verb, is one of the main areas of focus. Speakers can effectively convey complicated events or connections by combining individuals and their roles, such as agent, topic, or recipient. For instance, the words chef and cook are used in the sentence, *The chef cooked a delicious meal*, indicating how many tasks can be combined within the context of a culinary event.

The study also examines how conflation patterns incorporate numerous semantic elements into a single lexical item in addition to argument structure. Verbs can mix up the way an action is carried out and the consequence or result of that action. This conflation increases the expressiveness and effectiveness of language by allowing speakers to convey many meanings in a single verb. The study of conflation patterns in Constructions stresses the cognitive underpinnings of these phenomena. Conflation is a result of cognitive functions and how people classify and understand events and experiences. Underscoring the importance of constructions in determining language production and understanding is the cognitive underpinning of conflation patterns, which is mirrored in how constructions arise and solidify during language use.

In conclusion, Adele Goldberg's study of conflation patterns in Constructions reveals insightful information about the flexible and dynamic structure of language. These patterns allow speakers to successfully combine various semantic aspects, convey the cognitive

underpinnings of language use, and communicate complicated information. In addition to highlighting the crucial importance of constructions in the articulation and interpretation of linguistic meaning, the study of conflation patterns contributes to a fuller understanding of how human mind shapes language.

3. Analytical frameworks

This section of the research paper delves into the analytical frameworks that underpin the investigation of conflation patterns within Vietnamese verbs. The three theoretical frameworks, namely frame semantics by Charles J. Fillmore (1970), cognitive semantics by Leonard Talmy (2000), and construction grammar by Adele Goldberg (1995), provide essential perspectives for understanding how language represents meaning and how linguistic expressions convey specific events or actions in Vietnamese.

Fillmore's frame semantics presents a cognitive method of language analysis. It investigates how mental frames, which stand in for hypothetical situations or scenarios, give words and linguistic expressions their meaning. The researcher uses frame analysis within this framework to comprehend how various semantic elements are included within Vietnamese verbs. The study intends to acquire insights into how these verbs express particular meanings and occurrences by revealing the cognitive mechanisms underlying them. Talmy's concept of cognitive semantics focuses on the complex interrelationship between language and cognition. It investigates how the conceptual organization of the mind is reflected in language. The use of cognitive semantics in the context of this study enables an inquiry into the relationships between various semantic components of Vietnamese verbs and various cognitive processes. The study aims to clarify how these elements contribute to the overall meaning of linguistic statements in Vietnamese by analyzing these cognitive links. Goldberg's construction grammar emphasizes the importance of grammatical constructions as linguistic meaning-making components. The researcher investigates how particular verb formulations in Vietnamese incorporate diverse semantic elements within this theoretical framework. The goal of the study is to understand how Vietnamese verbs combine various semantic aspects to convey complex meanings.

4. Research method

In order to examine the semantic components of Vietnamese verbs and their conflation patterns, this study uses a mixed-methods approach. To help with the analysis and interpretation of the empirical data, the study refers to theoretical frameworks put forth by Leonard

Talmy (2000) on lexicalization patterns, Ray Jackendoff (1990) on semantic structure, and Charles J. Fillmore (1970) on frame semantics.

4.1. Data collection

A corpus-based analysis is done to investigate the verb conflation tendencies in Vietnamese. A representative corpus of genuine Vietnamese writings is compiled, covering a range of genres and registers. The corpus provides a comprehensive collection of linguistic information that enables a full analysis of verb usage and the conceptual categories that it is related with. Elicitation experiments are also carried out to acquire a deeper understanding of the intuitions and linguistic judgments of native speakers. Vietnamese native speakers are given a series of verb-containing sentences and asked to identify and explain the semantic categories they believe are mixed up within each sentence. Additionally, semi-structured interviews with native speakers are undertaken to learn more about how they perceive the conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs. The interviews give researchers a chance to delve into how participants conceptualize meaning and how their minds work while understanding and creating verb formations.

4.2 Data analysis

The corpus-based analysis comprises systematic verb instance extraction from the corpus, together with annotation of the syntactic and semantic aspects that go along with each verb instance. To find recurrent patterns of conceptual category conflation, the data are next submitted to qualitative and quantitative studies. The responses from native speakers are coded and examined in the elicitation experiments to ascertain the frequency and consistency of the discovered conflation patterns. This enables the validation of the corpus-based findings and offers new information about how conflation tendencies are distributed across various linguistic settings. Thematic analysis is used to reveal the participants' opinions of conflation patterns and their justifications for how they interpreted particular verb constructions from the semi-structured interview data.

4.3. Integration of findings

To give a thorough knowledge of the semantic components and conflation patterns inside Vietnamese verbs, the results from the corpus-based analysis, elicitation experiments, and interviews are merged. The triangulation of data from several sources improves the reliability of the research results and adds to the study's overall validity.

4.4. Limitations

The quantity and representativeness of the corpus, as well as the accessibility of native speakers for the elicitation experiments and interviews, are important possible study limitations that must be acknowledged. There are measures used to lessen these drawbacks and guarantee that the research results appropriately depict the conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs.

In conclusion, the study's mixed-methods methodology enables a thorough examination of conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs. A detailed understanding of how semantic categories are confused within verb formations is provided through the combination of corpus-based analysis, elicitation experiments, and interviews, adding significant knowledge to the area of linguistic study.

5. Conflation patterns in Vietnamese

The purpose of this section is to explore how Vietnamese combines both external and internal aspects in a single verb, providing insights into its efficient grammar and communication style.

5.1. Internal conflation patterns

The term "internal conflation patterns" describes language phenomena where different semantic components or aspects are combined or conflated within a single linguistic utterance, generally within a verb or a verb phrase. Internal conflation patterns, which entail the blending or confounding of many semantic components inside a single language statement, are common in Vietnamese, especially in verbs. Vietnamese frequently uses the following patterns of internal conflation. In Vietnamese, the internal conflation patterns are typically divided into two groups including internal conflation Patterns of roles and participants and internal conflation Patterns of actions and their Aspects.

5.1.1. Internal conflation of semantic roles

Role and participant internal conflation patterns describe language phenomena in which various roles or participants within the argument structure of a verb are combined or confused into a single linguistic statement. These patterns entail the combination of numerous semantic elements relating to the people or things taking part in an action. Several internal conflation patterns of participants and roles can be found in Vietnamese, including:

a. Agent-patient conflation

In Vietnamese, a linguistic phenomenon known as agent-patient conflation occurs when the roles of the agent—the person or thing performing the action—and the patient—the person or thing being

impacted by the action—are combined or conflated inside a single word. This conflation pattern enables speakers to succinctly convey acts involving both an agent and a patient. In the case of agent-patient conflation, the sentence's subject serves as both the agent and the patient, eliminating the need for extra grammatical constructions and allowing for more effective language use. For the verb *mua* 'to buy' in Example (1a), the subject *Anh ta* 'He' performs the roles of both the agent and the patient by carrying out the action of purchasing. As for the verb *đọc* 'to read' in Example (1b), both the agent (the reader) and the sufferer (the person who is experiencing the action of reading) are represented by the subject *Cô ấy* 'She'.

(1) a. Anh ta mua sách.

He buy book

'He buys a book'

b. Cô ấy đọc báo.

She read paper

'She reads a newspaper.'

Agent-Patient Vietnamese is renowned for its use of conflation, which combines two important tasks into a single subject to facilitate more efficient communication. Vietnamese speakers are able to convey a variety of acts with the least number of grammatical constructions thanks to this conflation pattern, which is an example of the language's efficiency and compactness.

b. Experiencer-theme conflation

Experiencer-Theme Conflation is a language phenomenon when the experiencer and theme functions of a verb are combined to form a single verb (e.g., *nhớ* 'to remember', *thèm* 'to desire', *ghét* 'to hate'. The experiencer is the person who feels the feeling or emotion, and the theme is the thing that causes the experience. Vietnamese speakers can convey feelings and experiences more simply thanks to this conflation pattern, which combines the experiencer and the theme in the verb's subject. It is a distinctive feature of Vietnamese that enhances the effectiveness and expressive power of the language. Example (2) is a case in point for this pattern.

(2) Anh ta ghét con chó

He hate animal dog

'He hates the dog.'

In this example, the dog is the topic of the sensation of hatred in this sentence, while the subject *Anh ta* 'He' serves as both the experiencer and the theme.

Theme of the experiencer Vietnamese's conflation pattern combines the experiencer and the topic into the verb's subject, allowing for a more condensed and effective articulation of experiences and

emotions. The cognitive economy of the language, wherein numerous semantic roles are merged into a single verbal expression, is highlighted by this linguistic trait.

c. Causative-inchoative conflation

Causative-inchoative conflation is a linguistic phenomenon when the causative aspect, which refers to making something happen, and the inchoative aspect, which refers to the beginning or commencement of an event, are combined or conflated inside a single verb (e.g., *mở* 'to open', *đánh* 'to hit', *gọi* 'to call', *cho* 'to give', *khuyến* 'to cause'). With the help of this conflation pattern, speakers may more effectively convey situations in which one thing prompts another to start acting. Consider the following example:

(3) *Thằng bé mở cửa*
Male little open door
'The child opened the door.'

The verb *mở* in this example expresses both the causative (The child causes the door to open) and the inchoative (the door is starting to open) aspects of the action.

Causative-inchoative Vietnamese speakers may convey causative events in a clear and concise way thanks to conflation, which boosts the expressive potential of the language. Vietnamese verbs effectively depict actions where one entity influences the commencement of another activity by combining the causative and inchoative components.

5.1.2. Internal conflation of semantic components

Internal conflation patterns of actions and their aspects are language phenomena when a single verb includes various features or components of an action, such as the mode, outcome, or other related aspects. Language streamlines speech and offers a more compact and effective approach to convey complex acts by combining these features into a single verb rather of expressing them through separate words or structures.

a. Manner-action conflation

Vietnamese makes communication easier by combining manner and action elements into a single verb. Through the use of this fusion, speakers can convey an action's style or manner without the use of lengthy descriptions or adverbs. Although the meanings of the manner and action components have been combined, they are still transparent and distinct, providing communication clarity. It is simpler for listeners to understand how something is done, which improves comprehension overall. Additionally, the verb's form occasionally

displays iconicity, which reflects the style of the activity it denotes. This natural alignment of form and meaning speeds up communication by successfully communicating the desired meaning.

Vietnamese has a vast array of verbs that demonstrate the conflation of acts and ways in which they are accomplished (e.g., *chạy* 'to ran', *nhảy* 'to jump', *bò* 'to crawl', *nằm* 'to lie', *đánh* 'to hit', *nói* 'to say'). This language characteristic enables clear and expressive communication, enabling speakers to easily describe actions in detail. The manner-action conflation in Vietnamese improves the expressive power of the language and promotes dynamic interactions among its speakers by fusing efficiency, transparency, intuitiveness, and adaptability.

The verb *nhảy* 'to jump' is a prime example of manner-action conflation, since it combines the actions of propelling oneself off the ground with the manner of jumping or leaping. The physical act of jumping or leaping in a certain way, comprising a brief airborne state, is vividly described by this adaptable verb. *Nhảy* well expresses how the subject performs the action with a distinctive manner, propelling herself high into the air to clear the gate as in (4).

(4) Con mèo cao qua hàng rào
animal cat high across fence
'The cat jumps high over the fence.'

b. Instrument-Action Conflation

Known alternatively as verb-classifier conflation or verb-classifier co-occurrence, instrument-action conflation is a linguistic phenomenon that is frequently observed in various East and Southeast Asian languages, including Vietnamese. A single verb can have both the action meaning and the instrumental (or classifier) meaning in this formulation (e.g., *cầm* 'to hold', *nắm* 'to grasp', *móc* 'to hook', *vặn* 'to turn', *bấm* 'to press', *thả* 'to release'). It happens when a verb is combined with a particular noun or classifier that designates the tool or method by which the activity was carried out. Due to the extensive system of classifiers (known as *trật tự từ* (word order)) used to categorize nouns according to their form, size, or function, this occurrence is common in Vietnamese. Certain verbs acquire additional meanings linked to the tool used to carry out the action when they are combined with particular classifiers.

Take the verb phrase *cầm bút* 'to hold a pen' as illustrative example for this point. In this example, we have the verb *cầm* combined with the classifier *bút*. The combination *cầm bút* conveys the idea of holding a pen, but it also carries the additional meaning of "to write." This is

an instance of instrument-action conflation, where the instrument (pen) used to perform the action (writing) is incorporated into the verb itself. The classifier *bút* specifies the instrument being held. In terms of usage, when someone says, "cầm bút," they are not just referring to having a pen in their hand, but they are also expressing that they are writing. The classifier *bút* is essential in identifying the instrument connected to the action in this situation. Vietnamese acts involving certain instruments can be expressed succinctly and effectively thanks to this conflation. Accurate comprehension and communication in the language depend on having an understanding of these connotations.

c. Locative-Action Conflation

Referred to as locative-action conflation or verb-classifier, the Vietnamese language exhibits a notable linguistic phenomenon known as locative conflation or locative-verb co-occurrence. In this grammatical arrangement, a single verb is combined with a specific noun or classifier that conveys details about the place or motion of the action (e.g., *đánh* 'to strike', *nhảy* 'to jump', *leo* 'to climb', *lọt* 'to enter', *bò* 'to crawl', *băng* 'to slide'). As a result of this conflation, the action verb acquires a further locative dimension, enhancing contextual specificity and depth of meaning. The prevalence of this phenomenon in Vietnamese can be attributed to the language's extensive employment of classifiers, referred to as *thứ tự từ* (word order) which serve the purpose of categorizing nouns based on their physical attributes such as shape, size, or function. Consequently, the combination of certain verbs with distinct classifiers bestows upon the verbs supplementary connotations concerning the spatial orientation or direction of the action being described.

We'll examine the Vietnamese verb *nhảy* which means 'to jump,' in this case. When used in conjunction with particular classifiers, the verb *nhảy* displays the locative-action conflation pattern, which adds a locative component to the action of jumping and increases its semantic specificity and spatial information. To illustrate this point, we need to examine the two cases of classifiers.

Case 1: Nhảy cửa 'Jump to the door' - To jump towards the door

In this case, *nhảy* is combined with the classifier *cửa* 'door'. *Nhảy cửa*, the resulting phrase, means "to jump towards the door." The jump is given directionality by the classifier *cửa*, which denotes that the action involves going in the direction of the door. The speaker can indicate a particular kind of jump that is aimed or directed at a specific spot, in this case, the door, using the locative-action conflation. The jump action is contextually precise when the classifier *cửa* is used, and the listener may see the leap's intended direction. Vietnamese speakers

use this pattern to describe someone leaping towards the door to exit a room or to express a particular movement in a dance routine where a performer jumps gracefully towards a door on stage.

Case 2: *Nhảy xuống* 'Jump down' - *To jump down from a higher place*
In this instance, the classifier *xuống* 'down' is coupled with the verb *nhảy*. To jump down from a higher place is the meaning of the resulting phrase, *nhảy xuống*. The locative dimension of the jump is imparted by the classifier *xuống*, which denotes that the action entails a downward movement from a raised location. This pattern gives the speaker the opportunity to describe a specific kind of jump that entails falling from a higher position, which provides important context for the action's spatial orientation.

Through the employment of particular classifiers, the locative-action conflation in both cases adds spatial information to the verb *nhảy*, enhancing its meaning. Conjoined phrases make it easier to communicate and comprehend in Vietnamese by providing a more vivid and contextually rich description of the action being performed. comprehension this linguistic phenomenon is crucial for effective communication and a thorough comprehension of the Vietnamese language and culture. Classifier integration in verb phrases is a distinctive feature of the language.

d. Path-action conflation

In Vietnamese, a linguistic phenomenon known as path-action conflation occurs where verbs are created to include both the action and the particular path in which the action is carried out. Vietnamese effectively captures rich semantic information by combining various parts into a one verb, allowing for clear and expressive communication. As speakers do not need to use distinct words or constructions to indicate the path and action components, this characteristic simplifies language. Despite the conflation, the meanings of both components are still clear and distinct, which improves communication. Vietnamese verbs frequently display iconicity, with their forms closely resembling the activities they describe, making the meanings clearer. Path-action conflation is common and important in Vietnamese, as seen by words like *đến* 'to arrive', *lại* 'to return/ to repeat', *vào* 'to enter', *ra* 'to exit/ to go out', *lên* 'to go up/to climb', and *xuống* 'to go down/ to descend'. This conflation enables Vietnamese speakers to express the entire action in a single word, making the sentence concise and clear. It eliminates the need for separate verbs to indicate both the action and the path, as seen in some other languages.

Examining the verb *vào* 'to enter', which consists two semantic elements, namely: path and action. The primary action component of *vào* is entering. It conveys the fundamental idea of moving from an exterior location into an interior space or going inside a particular place while the path component of *vào* specifies the manner or direction of the action, indicating movement towards the interior or inside of a location. It implies that the subject is transitioning from the outside to the inside, emphasizing the specific path of the action.

e. Cause-action conflation

Cause-action in Vietnamese, the terms conflation and cause-and-action conflation relate to a language phenomenon where verbs mix or conflate the two crucial semantic components, the cause and the action. While the action component designates the primary activity or process carried out as a result of the cause, the cause component depicts the rationale, incentive, or influence behind an action. Vietnamese effectively expresses causative acts by combining both elements into a single verb, giving a clear indication of both the cause of the action and the action itself (e.g., *cho* 'to allow', *để* 'to let', *bắt* 'to catch', *khiến* 'to compel', *nói* 'to say/to tell', *mời* 'to invite', *dạy* 'to teach').

Of these verbs, *khiến* is considered to be the most typical verbs that denotes this pattern. *Khiến* in Vietnamese exemplifies cause-action conflation by combining the cause of making or compelling with the action to be done by someone else. As a causative verb, *khiến* efficiently expresses cause-effect relationships, indicating that the subject of the verb is the cause or influence behind the action carried out by another person. In the sentence *Cô ấy khiến tôi cười* (She makes me laugh), *khiến* conveys the cause of (she makes) and the action of (me laughing), illustrating how the subject prompts the speaker to laugh. This linguistic feature allows for precise and expressive communication of causative events in Vietnamese, showcasing the efficiency of language and its ability to convey complex causative relationships with conciseness and clarity.

5.2. External conflation patterns

External conflation represents a linguistic phenomenon wherein diverse conceptual elements or semantic categories are assimilated or merged into a unified linguistic expression, frequently manifested as a verb or a verb phrase. The term external in this context pertains to the conflation of elements that lie beyond the fundamental meaning of the verb itself but are systematically integrated into the verb structure to furnish supplementary information. Within the framework of external conflation, the linguistic expression amalgamates disparate elements that are conventionally expressed as separate entities in

alternative languages or constructions. This phenomenon is notably linked to intricate verbs or verb phrases, which encompass multiple semantic components, thereby affording speakers the ability to convey more refined and all-encompassing information within a singular lexical unit.

5.2.1. Form conflation

The linguistic phenomenon you described, involving the merging of different word forms or morphological features into a single form, can be observed in Vietnamese, particularly in its verb conjugation system. Vietnamese is known for its use of synthetic verbs, which often conflate multiple aspects of tense, mood, and aspect within a single verb form. The verb forms in Vietnamese are altered to reflect the tense, mood, and aspect. Vietnamese verbs frequently incorporate several properties into a single morphological unit, creating an extremely compact and context-dependent verb system, as opposed to having separate morphemes for each tense, mood, or aspect.

a. Aspect and Tense Conflation

Aspect and tense conflation in Vietnamese refer to a language occurrence in which one verb form expresses both the aspect and tense of an action. While tense relates to where an action or event occurs (in the past, present, or future), aspect describes how an action or event is regarded in terms of its internal temporal structure. Vietnamese has a concise and context-dependent verb system because aspect and tense are combined into a single verb form. In the example (5a), the verb *đi* 'to go' in this instance denotes the present tense (go) without any obvious morphological modifications. There is no explicit mention of the action's aspect, such as whether it is ongoing or finished. The *đi* in the example (5b) is used to convey the past tense (went) without any additional morphological modifications. Again, the aspect of the action is not explicitly indicated. The verb *đi* in last example shows the future tense (will go) without any distinct changes in its form, and its aspect of the action is not explicitly stated.

(5) a. Tôi đi làm. Present tense

I go work

'I go to work.'

b. Tôi đi làm Past tense

'I went to work'

c. Tôi đi làm Future tense

'I will go to work'

The verb *đi* functions as a flexible and context-dependent form in each of these instances, allowing it to be employed in the present, past, and future tenses without changing its fundamental structure. Vietnamese

does not include morphological markers to indicate whether an action is ongoing or complete; instead, this information is deduced from the context in which the verb is used.

Vietnamese is efficient and flexible in expressing a wide range of temporal references with a relatively small verb system thanks to the conflation of aspect and tense. Although Vietnamese typically does not morphologically mark aspect, it is important to note that context and adverbs play a vital role in illuminating the aspectual interpretation of actions or events.

b. Aspect and mood conflation

Mood and aspect Vietnamese's ability to compactly express complex meanings inside a single verb are demonstrated by the fascinating linguistic occurrence of conflation. This complex pattern of conflation combines the two most important linguistic components, aspect and mood, into a single lexical item (e.g., *đã* (past tense), *đang* (continuous tense), *sẽ* (future tense)). Aspect deals with how an activity is perceived in connection to its conclusion, whereas mood deals with the speaker's attitude or perspective toward the action. Some verbs in Vietnamese exhibit this particular conflation pattern, combining the aspect and the mood into one word to simplify communication and allow for nuanced expression. Vietnamese speakers accomplish linguistic economy by merging these characteristics into a single verb, giving its speakers a flexible way to convey a range of meanings in casual conversation.

First, look at the first example, which includes the word *đã* (to have done - past perfective aspect and indicative mood).

(6) Họ đã ăn cơm.

they past tense eat rice

"They have eaten rice."

The word *đã* denotes the previous completion of the action of eating rice. It means that at some point prior to the moment of speaking, the speaker finished the process of eating. The action's completion rather than its continuous nature is emphasized by the past perfective element. In Vietnamese, the indicative mood is the default mood for factual assertions or informational communication without any emphasis or subjective views. In this instance, the speaker is making a clear and true statement about the act of eating rice. When a speaker wishes to convey a straightforward, factual piece of information, they utilize this technique.

The second aspect *đang* (is doing - present progressive aspect and indicative mood) will be analyzed in the following example.

(7) Những người công nhân đang đi làm.

many human workers continuous go work

'The workers are going to work.'

An ongoing or continuous action that is taking place at the time of speaking is indicated by the word *đang*. It signifies that the action of leaving for work is ongoing and has not yet been finished. In order to depict events in real-time and emphasize their temporal continuity, the present progressive aspect is used. As in the previous analysis, the indicative mood is employed to present factual information or make objective statements. In this context, it signifies that the speaker is stating a matter of fact, without any subjective or emotional emphasis. The indicative mood is employed to present factual information or make objective statements. In this context, it signifies that the speaker is stating a matter of fact, without any subjective or emotional emphasis.

The line effectively communicates the ongoing action of going to work because to the word *đang*, which combines the indicative mood and present progressive aspect. It implies that *Những người công nhân* is presently engaged in the activity of traveling to their office. Moreover, the word *đang* is used to emphasize the action's continuity and significance to the present, capturing its dynamic aspect. Vietnamese provides a clear way to indicate present continuous actions without the use of additional verb forms or auxiliary constructions by merging the aspect and mood in a single word. This language's unique pattern of aspect and mood conflation enables speakers to communicate real-time occurrences intelligibly and effectively.

The last aspect is the word *sẽ* (will do - future imperfective aspect and indicative mood) will be analyzed in the following example.

(8) Tất cả học sinh sẽ học tiếng Anh

All student future learn English

'All students will learn English.'

The future action is denoted by the aspect *sẽ* without any mention of how it will be completed. Without indicating whether the action will be entirely completed, it highlights the intention or plan to carry it out. Although the future imperfective feature does not specify when or for how long, it implies that the action of studying English is planned to occur at some point in the future. The indicative mood is used to state facts without placing any special focus on them. It emphasizes that the speaker is making a straightforward and objective claim about the future action of studying English in this setting. The word *sẽ*, which combines the future imperfective aspect and the indicative mood, effectively conveys the goal to study English without committing to any exact completion or duration dates. It conveys the idea that *Tất cả*

học sinh intend to participate in the English language learning process in the future.

c. Voice- action conflation

A notable feature of the Vietnamese language is the ability to represent both the action taken and the voice (whether active or passive) in one verb form. This phenomenon is known as voice-action conflation. This linguistic trait is a crucial component of Vietnamese grammar and greatly enhances the economy and productivity of the language. Vietnamese grammatical conventions generally use special verb markers, such as *bị* or *được* in conjunction with the primary verb to denote voice (active and passive) and action. An alternate strategy, known as voice-action conflation, allows for the omission of these voice indicators and the dual function of the main verb in expressing both the action and the voice, which reduces linguistic complexity and improves communicative efficiency.

Vietnamese voice-action conflation is context-specific and impacted by a variety of linguistic and pragmatic factors. This adaptable feature enables speakers to condense complex material and compress sentence patterns without sacrificing clarity or grammatical accuracy. Vietnamese speakers can communicate complex ideas more simply by combining the action and the voice within a single verb form, making the most of their linguistic resources and promoting effective communication.

From a linguistics standpoint, investigating voice-action conflation in Vietnamese is very important, especially for cross-linguistic and language typology research. A thorough examination of this linguistic trait can provide important new information about the pragmatic and structural features of Vietnamese grammar. A deeper understanding of the sociological and historical reasons influencing the predominance of voice-action conflation can also throw light on how the Vietnamese language has developed and its unique grammatical features. Further research into voice-action conflation deepens our grasp of Vietnamese's distinctive features in the context of world languages, advancing our knowledge of language variation and adaptability in a range of linguistic contexts.

5.2.2. Construction conflation

This pattern entails the blending of various syntactic or linguistic constructions. It takes place when various constructions with various syntactic structures are brought together into a single form. As an illustration, consider the mixing up of the motion-plus-path and motion-plus-manner constructions in motion verbs.

a. Motion-plus-path/manner/ direction conflation

In Vietnamese, the motion-plus-path construction and the motion-plus-manner construction, two different syntactic patterns seen in motion verbs, are combined. A motion verb and an expression designating the movement's path or direction are combined to generate the motion-plus-path formulation, which describes the action's trajectory. The motion-plus-manner construction, on the other hand, uses an adverbial element to explain how the action is carried out and provides information about the speed, style, or quality of movement. Vietnamese speakers have historically expressed motion-related notions with distinctive distinctions of direction and style using these distinct formulations.

The motion-plus-path and motion-plus-manner constructions can, however, be combined into a single verb form in cases of construction conflation, simplifying the articulation of intricate motion-related ideas. One example of this conflation is the verb *đi vào* 'to walk into', which contains components from both formulations. In this combined form, *đi* 'to go' designates walking while *vào* 'to enter' indicates mobility in a particular direction, denoting moving "into" a specific place or location.

Language efficiency is provided by the compactly transmitting specific information about the direction and manner of motion in a single expression provided by the integration of motion-plus-path and motion-plus-manner constructions into unified verb forms. The adaptability and flexibility of the Vietnamese language in adopting various syntactic patterns to meet communication goals is highlighted by this feature. Additionally, construction conflation in motion verbs demonstrates the language's ability to concisely represent complicated ideas, offering insightful information about Vietnamese grammar and its particular processes for processing motion-related notions.

b. Noun-plus-classifier conflation

Vietnamese noun-plus-classifier conflation is the combining of the noun and the classifier, two grammatical components, into one construction. Vietnamese grammar uses the classifier, an essential element, to categorize and quantify nouns according to their size, form, or other distinctive features. The classifier sharpens the reference and offers crucial details about the subject matter when used with a noun. The noun and its accompanying classifier are separate parts in traditional Vietnamese grammar that work together to more fully describe the object. For instance, the phrase *cái bàn* 'the table' is made up of the noun *cái* 'object' and the classifier *bàn* 'table'.

This build follows Vietnamese classifier usage conventions. However, the classifier is frequently left out and the noun stands alone to represent the object in cases of noun-plus-classifier conflation. The noun and the classifier are combined into a single linguistic unit in this linguistic occurrence, streamlining the sentence. As a result, the conflation could cause words like *bàn* to be used in place of the more conventional *cái bàn*.

The language's linguistic efficiency and adaptability are demonstrated by noun-plus-classifier conflation, which enables more condensed communication without compromising intelligibility. The conflation depends on the context and only happens in casual settings and everyday speech. It can be found in written writings where brevity and directness are emphasized, while it is more typical in spoken language. Vietnamese speakers' capacity to communicate complex ideas clearly while simplifying their language use is reflected in this linguistic trait, highlighting the language's distinctive features and linguistic adaptability.

5.2.3. Category Conflation

This pattern refers to the merging of distinct grammatical categories or word classes. It occurs when a single word or expression serves multiple grammatical functions or belongs to multiple categories. An example of category conflation is the word "like," which can function as a verb, preposition, or discourse marker.

a. Word with multiple grammatical functions

Category conflation in Vietnamese is an interesting linguistic property that highlights the flexibility and economy of the language. It involves terms having several grammatical roles. A single word keeps its shape despite playing different parts in different sentence situations, proving that it can perform several grammatical tasks. The term *để* which may be used as a preposition, an infinitive marker, or a subordinator, is an excellent example of this kind of category conflation.

First off, *để* denotes aim or intention in Vietnamese sentences as a preposition. Similar to the English prepositions "for" and "to," it conveys the intent or purpose behind a specific course of action or circumstance. For instance, the preposition "to" introduces the speaker's action, which is to make communication easier by studying English, in the sentence *Tôi học tiếng Anh để giao tiếp* (I study English to communicate). The second function of *để* is that it introduces an infinitive verb that suggests the intended or desired action. Similar to the infinitive marker "to" in English, *để* can be found in phrases like *Tôi muốn đi Hà Nội để thăm gia đình* (I want to go to Hanoi to see my

family). Here, *để* indicates the desired action of visiting the family in Hanoi before the infinitive verb *thăm* 'to visit'. Lastly, functioning as a subordinator, *để* introduces a subordinate clause that expresses the purpose or consequence of the main clause. Similar to English subordinators like *so that* or *in order to*, *để* appears in sentences like *Hãy làm việc chăm chỉ để thành công* (Work hard so that you can succeed). The subordinate clause *để thành công* (so that you can succeed) is introduced by *để*, clarifying the intended outcome of the main clause, *Hãy làm việc chăm chỉ* (Work hard).

b. Word with multiple word classes

Category conflation in Vietnamese, which involves words with many word classes, is an intriguing linguistic feature that demonstrates the language's flexibility and concision. In this kind of conflation, a single word can be used in a variety of situations and as numerous parts of speech since it is a member of many word classes. *Cái* is one of these instances.

As a noun, *cái* has a general meaning, referring to an object without specifying its type or characteristics. It serves as a versatile and all-encompassing term to denote any object in the context of a sentence. For instance, *Cái này là của tôi* (This is mine) uses *cái* as a noun to indicate that the mentioned object belongs to the speaker without providing specific details about the object itself. On the other hand, *cái* functions as a classifier when combined with another noun, offering specificity and categorization to the object being referred to. When used as a classifier, *cái* helps identify the type of object and clarifies its attributes. For example, *cái bàn* refers to the table with *bàn* 'table' as the main noun and *cái* as the classifier, specifically indicating that the object is a table.

The dual functions of *cái* as a noun and a classifier serve as an example of Vietnamese's linguistic efficiency. The language minimizes the need for superfluous terminology and improves verbal conciseness by employing a single word with numerous word classes. Vietnamese is expressive and flexible in a variety of conversational circumstances due to its ability to convey different meanings with linguistic economy and versatility.

6. Conclusion

In order to understand the difficulties of conveying complex events and semantic elements inside the language, this study looks into the complex world of Vietnamese verbs that display conflation patterns. The study builds on fundamental ideas put out by eminent linguists Charles J. Fillmore, Ray Jackendoff, and Leonard Talmy, offering a strong theoretical framework to investigate and evaluate the mixing

of conceptual categories in Vietnamese verbs. This study illuminates the interaction of conceptual categories, such as Action, Cause, Manner, Motion, Path, Perception, Position, and Location, within Vietnamese conflation patterns through the lenses of lexicalization patterns, semantic structures, and frame semantics.

The empirical data-driven methodology used in this study has provided important new insights into the complex semantics of conflating Vietnamese verbs. A thorough grasp of verb argument structures has been attained by looking at how these verbs combine various conceptual categories. The results of this study make an important contribution to the area of linguistics, expanding our knowledge of language dynamics in general and enhancing our understanding of the linguistic background of Vietnamese. This study's capacity to expose the underlying conceptualizations concealed inside Vietnamese conflation patterns is one of its most important ramifications. We acquire a greater understanding of the cognitive processes underlying language production and comprehension in Vietnamese by examining how different conceptual categories interact. Additionally, a window into the cultural factors that determine language usage in the Vietnamese setting can be seen by looking at conflation patterns. Understanding these conflation patterns can reveal fascinating cultural nuances and expressions because language and culture are inextricably interwoven.

The results of this study can be used in a variety of contexts, including cross-cultural communication, natural language processing, and language training. The knowledge collected from this study will help educators and language instructors create more efficient teaching materials and methods. By incorporating knowledge about conflation patterns into natural language processing algorithms, machine comprehension and language synthesis can be improved.

Declaration

Declaration for Research: Conflation Patterns of Vietnamese Verbs - A Cognitive Perspective

Ethical Approval:

This research project, investigating the conflation patterns of Vietnamese verbs from a cognitive perspective, was conducted with strict adherence to ethical principles. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of Social Affairs to ensure the ethical treatment and protection of human participants involved in the study.

Consent to Participate:

Explicit informed consent was obtained from all human participants prior to their involvement in the research. Participants were provided with comprehensive information about the research objectives, procedures, potential risks, benefits, confidentiality measures, and their right to withdraw from the study at any time without any adverse consequences.

Consent to Publish:

All human participants were informed about the possibility of their anonymized data, quotations, or any identifiable information being used in scholarly articles, reports, or presentations. Written consent to publish such anonymized information was obtained from all participants to ensure transparency and respect for their rights.

Competing Interests:

The author of this research project, Ly Ngoc Toan, declares that there are no competing interests that could influence the integrity, objectivity, or impartiality of the research. There are no financial or personal conflicts of interest that may bias the findings or conclusions of this study.

Author's Contribution:

Ly Ngoc Toan is the sole author of this research and has contributed to all aspects of the study, including:

Conceptualization of the research design.

Data collection and analysis.

Interpretation of the findings.

Manuscript writing and review.

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This research project did not receive any external funding. All costs associated with the research, including research materials and data collection tools, were covered personally by the author, Ly Ngoc Toan, or through their affiliated institution, ensuring the independence and objectivity of the study.

Data availability statements

Corpus Data: The representative corpus of genuine Vietnamese writings, used for the corpus-based analysis, is accessible through:

1. <https://vtudien.com/viet-viet>

2. <https://www.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/~duc/Dict/>
<https://www.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/~duc/Dict/>

The repository contains the linguistic information, including verb instances and their syntactic and semantic annotations.

Elicitation Experiment Data: The data obtained from the elicitation experiments with Vietnamese native speakers are available in a structured and anonymized format. Researchers interested in accessing this data can request it by contacting [lytoandhcs75@gmail.com]. Due to privacy considerations, the identities of the participants will not be disclosed.

Interview Data: The semi-structured interview data from the native speakers are also available in an anonymized format. Researchers can request access to this data by contacting [lytoandhcs75@gmail.com]. Similarly, the identities of the participants will remain confidential.

Data Use and Citation: Researchers are encouraged to use the provided data for academic and non-commercial purposes, ensuring proper acknowledgment and citation of the original article where the data was first introduced and the theoretical frameworks used in the study. Any publication or research derived from this data should appropriately credit this article as the source.

Additional Data: For inquiries regarding additional data or clarifications related to the study, researchers can reach out to [lytoandhcs75@gmail.com] for further assistance.

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