

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC
FEATURES OF BENEFICIARY IN ENGLISH
AND VIETNAMESE
(IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR)**

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

FG is a general theory concerning the grammatical organization of natural languages. In English, linguists who make a significant contribution to development of language; especially, FG should be mentioned as Halliday with *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* [7], Butt *et al.* with *Using Functional Grammar – An Explorer’s Guide* [2], and ect...In Vietnamese, Cao Xuân Hạo with *Tiếng Việt: Sơ Thảo Ngữ Pháp Chức Năng* [28] and Hoàng Văn Vân with *Ngữ Pháp Kinh Nghiệm Của Cú Pháp Tiếng Việt – Mô Tả Theo Quan Điểm Chức Năng Hệ Thống* [36] are the first authors who paved the way for FG.

Halliday (1985, 1994) says that the Beneficiary appears in MaPs and VerPs, and occasionally in relational. Moreover, Thompson [20] supposes that it can appear with all process types except existential processes, though not with all verbs within each type.

We appreciate that to study the Beneficiary is one of the most interesting and helpful tasks. In this sense, we make a decision to do research on the topic “**An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese (In the Perspective of Functional Grammar)**” with the purposes that the study, to some extent, makes a certain contribution to help English teachers and learners of English, as well as those interested in the field understand linguistic features of the Beneficiary more clearly and provides useful systematical knowledge of the Beneficiary in processes.

1.2. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

To be exact, the study will focus on syntactic and semantic features of the Beneficiary between two languages, and functions of the Beneficiary will be discussed. In addition, it appears in MaPs and VerPs, occasionally in relational. We restrict the study and decide to make a research of the Beneficiary on two kinds of process: Material and Verbal.

This study is based on Halliday’s point of view with *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* [7], [8], & [9] and functional

grammarians such as: Butt *et al* [2]; Bloor [1]; Downing & Locke [4], Eggins [5]....

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic features of Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and in Vietnamese?
2. What are the semantic features of Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese?
3. What implications does the study have for Vietnamese teachers and learners of English as well as for those interested in the study in the field?

1.2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will be able to help learners of language have a comprehensive understanding about the Beneficiary in two languages.

Moreover, the study will help learners of language know clearly about the importance of FG in an attempt to make FG closer to Vietnamese study.

Finally, it makes a significant contribution to the study of language in general and the study of English as a foreign language in particular, especially to learners of both languages.

1.5. THE DEFINITION OF TERMS

- *Participant*: Butt [2] states that in the grammar of a clause, a participant can be a person, a place, or an object. The participant is defined as the notion of “thingness”.
- *Process*: Processes are expressions of happening, doing, acting, doing, sensing, saying or simply being.
- *Beneficiary*: According to Halliday (1985), (1994), and (2004), “The Beneficiary is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place.”

Thompson [20, p.103] believes, “The Beneficiary is equivalent to the “Indirect Object” in traditional terms, and is defined as ‘the one to or for whom the process is said to take place’ (Halliday, 1994:144).”

Besides, Lock [11, p.76] defines that the Beneficiary is the one who receives the Goal and it is someone for whose

benefit the action is carried out.

In three definitions of the Beneficiary above, Halliday's definition is fullest and clearest; therefore, we accept and use it in our study.

- *Transitivity*: "Transitivity specifies the different types of process that are recognized in the language, and the structures by which they are expressed" [7, p.101]
- *Indirect Object*: "The Indirect Object is that clause constituent which immediately follows the Predicator in clauses with two Objects." [4, p.41]
- *Ditransitive Verb*: "Ditransitive verbs are verbs which take two Objects, Indirect and Direct, sequenced in that order, each of which can potentially become Subject in a passive clause." [4, p.85]

1.6. THE ORGNIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study will be organized into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review & Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Implications

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERARURE REVIEW

Halliday [8] declares that each element in a language is explained by reference to its function in the total linguistic system. FG is the one that construes all the units of a language – its clauses, phrases and so on – as organic configurations of functions.

Moreover, Halliday [7] maintains that the Beneficiary is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place. The Beneficiary is "logical indirect object" and it appears in MaPs and VerPs and occasionally in relational.

Lock [11] introduces the book *Functional English Grammar: An Introduction for Second Language Teacher*. He emphasizes how

the purpose for which language is used and the contexts in which it appears affect the choices speakers and writers make.

Downing and Locke [4] present that based on a fundamental property of language, we can understand and describe our thoughts, feelings and perceptions about the external world or the internal world.

With *Using Functional Grammar – An explorer's Guide* [2], Butt *et al* place their study of grammar in a broader framework of language and understanding, and to reaffirm from the start that grammar as a means of explaining the significant and functional pattern of words in the making of meaning cannot be wished away.

Bloor T & M are the authors of the book – *The Functional Analysis of English* [1] which introduces the analysis of English with FG. Moreover, they provide the reader with the grammatical tool needed to take samples of English apart and find out how the language works.

When talking about FG in Vietnamese, the first researcher who we should refer to is Cao Xuân Hạo with *Tiếng Việt: Sơ Thảo Ngữ Pháp Chức Năng* [28]. He presents the general description in the aspect of FG in his book. Another author who should be emphasized is Hoàng Văn Vân with *Ngữ Pháp Kinh Nghiệm Của Cú Pháp Tiếng Việt – Mô Tả Theo Quan Điểm Chức Năng Hệ Thống* [36]. He discusses the transitivity system as well as the grammar of processes in Vietnamese. Furthermore, he provides the features of Beneficiary.

In addition, some master theses are carried out such as: *An Investigation into Distinguish Features between Material and Mental Processes in English and Vietnamese* by Nguyen Thi Xuan Thuy (2007), *An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Range in English and Vietnamese* by Nguyen Thi Yen Mai (2011), *An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Goal and Range in Material Processes in English and Vietnamese* by Phan Duc Vy An (2011). In their studies, they partly present the roles and functions of the Beneficiary; therefore, they are very useful for our research.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Functional Grammar in Halliday's Perspective

2.2.2. Metafunctions

2.2.2.1. Ideational Metafunction

2.2.2.2. Interpersonal Metafunction

2.2.2.3. Textual Metafunction

2.2.3. Transitivity

2.2.4. Process Types

2.2.4.1. Material Processes

MaPs are processes of doing and happening which answer the question “What did X do?” or “What happened?”.

[2.6] **Ambulance crews, firefighters and police** helped to rescue **passengers** from the water.

2.2.4.2. Mental Processes

Mental processes construe the inner world of cognition, perception, inclination or liking/disliking.

There are types of sensing: perception, affection and cognition.

[2.9] The rider heard a noise. (Perception Process)

[2.11] These people don't understand his story. (Cognition Process)

[2.13] His behavior disgusted many people. (Affection process)

2.2.4.3. Relational Processes

Relational processes are processes of being and becoming.

[2.14] It was a yellowish brown. [47, p.16]

[2.17] Each structure expresses one kind of semantic organization.

2.2.4.4. Behavioral Processes

Behavioral processes are processes of physiological and psychological behavior.

[2.18] He breathes heavily. [47, p.25]

2.2.4.5. Verbal Processes

Processes of saying and communicating are VerPs which are realized by such verbs as say, tell, announce, ask...

[2.21] She told me the story of her life.

2.2.4.6. Existential Processes

Existential processes represent that something exists or happens.

[2.23] There was a madwoman in the attic.

2.2.5. Participant as Beneficiary and Related Concepts

Halliday [7], [8], and [9] also defines that the Beneficiary is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place. In a

‘material’ clause, the Beneficiary is either Recipient or Client. The Recipient is one that goods are given to and the Client is one that services are done for.

[2.27] Emil sent **his brother** a postcard from the hotel.

[2.29] Mary posted a letter **for her mother**.

In VerPs, the Beneficiary is the one who is being addressed and this role is referred to as the Receiver.

[2.30] I have asked **myself** the question.

Besides, the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs is realized as the Oi which can be defined that it is a distinct element of clause structure which follows the Predicator in clauses with two objects and has a prepositional paraphrase.

2.2.6. Summary

The transitivity system of English six different types of process is discriminated: material, mental and relational are three major ones, each with a small set of subtypes and three further process types are behavioral, verbal, and existential. The Beneficiary is ‘logical indirect object’ and it is either Recipient or Client in MaPs and Receiver in VerPs. We will look at the syntactic and semantic features of the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese in more detail in Chapter 4.

CHAPTER 3

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

3.1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1. Aims

- To make an investigation into the syntactic and semantic features of the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese (in the Perspective of FG).
- To find out the information, activities and syntactic behaviors of the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese.
- To discover the similarities and differences of the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese.
- To suggest some implications for teaching and learning.

3.1.2. Objectives

- Describing and categorizing the syntactic and semantic features of the Beneficiary and analyze them in English and Vietnamese.
- Comparing and contrasting the features and functions of the Beneficiary to find out the similarities and differences of the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese.
- Putting forward some implications for teaching and learning English as well as using the Beneficiary in speaking, writing as well as translation

3.2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.3. DATA COLLECTION

The study is carried out with the essential sources on 800 samples collected, selected and categorized from mainly short stories and novels, sometimes magazines, newspapers, and the internet in English and Vietnamese.

3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURE

3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF BENEFICIARY IN MATERIAL PROCESSES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.1.1. Syntactic Features of Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

The Beneficiary in MaPs is a participant benefiting from the doing (the one given or done for). Halliday [7, p.132] says, “In a MaP, the Beneficiary is either Recipient or Client. The Recipient is the one to whom the action is directed and who receives the ‘goods’; the Client is one that services are done for”.

In the view of traditional grammar, the Beneficiary is syntactically equivalent to Oi. It is commonly realized by nominal group, or less typically by WH- nominal relative clauses.

[4.1] He had offered **anybody** his arm in his life. [48, p.83]

He	has offered	anybody	his arm	in his life
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Actor	Pro: Material	Beneficiary	Goal	Circumstance
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In a MaP, the Beneficiary who benefits from the doing is treated as an Oi as ‘*anybody*’ in the example above. However, Oi can often be placed after Od as Oprep; furthermore, Oprep is called Beneficiary in FG.

[4.14] ...Colonel Sloan wrote that letter **to Melly** about his gallant conduct in leading the charge. [49, p.220]

Likewise, Vietnamese also has a participant - Beneficiary which is named Lợi Thể.

[4.16] Năm 1955 chị gửi con **cho bà ngoại**. [63, p.344]

In summary, in English and Vietnamese, the Beneficiary in MaPs can be referred to as Oi and is realized by (*to* +) nominal group (Recipient) or (*for* +) nominal group (Client); occasionally, nominal clauses, no-finite *ing* clause and prepositional phrase.

4.1.1.1. Beneficiary Expressed in Different Types of Participants in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

As stated above, the Beneficiary is “logical Oi”. Normally the Recipient occurs only in a clause which is ‘effective’ (has two direct participants). The Beneficiary can appear in two typical configurations below:

(i) Actor + Pro: Material + Goal + Beneficiary

Like the Goal, the Beneficiary is affected by the process. But while the Goal is the participant that is affected by the process, the Recipient or the Client is the one that benefits from it.

[4.4] Often *she* would bring *alcohol and cigarettes* **for him...**

[38, p.109]

Often	<i>she</i>	would bring	<i>alcohol and cigarettes</i>	for him...
Circumstance	<i>Actor</i>	Pro: Material	<i>Goal</i>	Beneficiary

As can be seen above-mentioned example, the process with three participants consists of *she* – the Actor, *alcohol and cigarettes* – the Goal and *for him* – the Beneficiary.

The Vietnamese MaPs also have this structural configuration.
[4.26] *Anh Hóa* bàn giao *con thuyền* **cho vợ chồng tôi**. [62, p.95]

(ii) Actor + Pro: Material + Beneficiary + Range

The Range of a MaP is not any way affected by the performance of the process. In [4.30] example, *little encouragement* is called Range, it construes the process itself.

[4.30] James and Andrew listened to his story patiently but *they* gave **him** *little encouragement*. [49, p.55]

<i>They</i>	gave	him	<i>little encouragement</i>
<i>Actor</i>	Pro: Material	Beneficiary	<i>Range</i>

Likewise, the Beneficiary in Vietnamese also appears in this typical configuration.

[4.36] *Cuộc diễn thuyết này đem đến cho chàng cái vinh hay cái nhục*. [55, p.489]

In brief, the Beneficiary – the common name of the Recipient and the Client can be preceded by the Goal and the Range; it can sometimes stand in front of these two participants.

4.1.1.2. Reversibility of Beneficiary in Passive Clauses in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

Halliday [9] states that the two functions of the Recipient and the Client resemble one another in that both construe a benefactive role; they represent a participant that is benefiting from the performance of the process. In the passive construction these correspondences are reserved. The Beneficiary now provides the point of departure, coinciding with S, while the Agent takes up final position and receives end-focus. The Beneficiary will coincide with S and is the point of departure. Let's see the following example:

[4.40] The globe, a Chicago magazine, gave Martin the most cruel treatment of all. [48, p.197]

The globe, a Chicago magazine	gave	Martin	the most cruel treatment of all
Actor	Pro: Material	Beneficiary	Range

In this clause, *the globe, a Chicago magazine* is the Actor and *the most cruel treatment of all* is the Range. The third participant is the one who receives the Goal; therefore, *Martin* is the Beneficiary.

Table 4.1: The Reversibility of Participants in Passive Clause

Martin	was given	the most cruel	by the globe, a
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		treatment of all	Chicago magazine
Beneficiary	Pro: Material	Goal	Actor

In addition, the Actor can exist in an adjunct as the Oprep *by* or may be omitted. However, it is not very easy for the Beneficiary to become S in passive clauses in many cases. For example:

[4.45] Could you fetch **me** the scissors? [4, p.47]

It is odd to say: * Could I be fetched the scissors?

Vietnamese uses regularly two typical lexical terminologies which are *bị* and *được*. The position of the Beneficiary can be reversible to place the Actor in passive clauses. Furthermore, like in English, the Actor in Vietnamese cannot be also mentioned in passive form.

[4.48] *Cán bộ và chiến sĩ đều hiểu rằng họ đã được đảng và quân đội phát cho một mảnh đất khá đặc biệt.* [59, p.76]

In conclusion, there exists passive voice in MaPs in either English or Vietnamese; the Actor in passive material clauses can be left out.

4.1.1.3. Fronting Position of Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

The Beneficiary usually stands in the back of the Goal or the Range in two mentioned configurations earlier. But the position of the Beneficiary can still change depending on the motivations or implications. Let's look at the following example:

[4.54] **The government**, the men sold such stuff ... [49, p.234]

The government ,	the men	sold	such stuff...
Beneficiary	Actor	Pro: Material	Goal

It is special that when the Beneficiary is placed in initial position, the Actor is not moved. Likewise, to focus on new or significant information, the Beneficiary can be placed in front of the Actor in Vietnamese clauses. For instance:

[4.58] *Hắn ta gặp lại người thư ký hắn ta đã lễ phép đưa căn cước và tấm bưu thiếp.* [52, p.381]

In a nutshell, the Beneficiary in both English and Vietnamese can be fronted with different purposes depending on implications and motivations to achieve communicative effects.

4.1.1.4. Absence of Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

The Beneficiary is an optional participant; it can be omitted and implicitly understood in some material clauses.

[4.63] He not only brought **Maybelle** the satin but he **was able to give** excellent hints on the making of the wedding dress.

[49, p.233]

He	was able to give	excellent hints	□	on the making of the wedding dress
Actor	Pro: Material	Goal	Beneficiary	Adjunct

The Beneficiary is absent and implicit in the above – mentioned example; nonetheless, it can be still understood through the context.

[4.70] Nửa tháng sau, tôi nhận được thư của **người chị họ nhờ mua** vài thứ hàng lặt vặt, và dặn tôi về N.B chơi nếu có dịp nào được rảnh. [60, p.35]

In short, the Beneficiary can be omitted and absent in English MaPs as well as Vietnamese without having an influence on the grammaticality of the clause. If the Beneficiary is apparently left out, it will need to be retrieved from the context for the clause to make sense.

4.1.2. Semantic features of Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

Semantically, most Beneficiaries are typically animate and human. This is not necessarily so, the Beneficiary can be plant, or an abstract entity.

[4.78] The classical porch lends **the house** an air of distinction.

[4, p.117]

The Beneficiary may be involved in processes of an unbeneficial or the benefit is not necessarily beneficial.

[4.81] What distant ancestors had given **me this stupid conscience?**

[43, p.113]

Likewise, in Vietnamese, the Beneficiary of MaPs can be a human, sometimes a thing, and an abstract entity. For instance:

[4.83] Nước đã đem hạnh phúc xuống **cho đất**; ruộng nương, đồng áng xưa kia nứt nẻ, bây giờ đã chan chứa hi vọng. [62, p.274]

In a nutshell, the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese MaPs typically denotes a being endowed with consciousness; nevertheless, the Beneficiary can still be a thing or an abstract entity.

4.1.2.1. Prepositions with Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

Halliday [6, p.132] says, “In a MaP, the Beneficiary is either Recipient or Client. The Recipient is the one to whom the action is directed and who receives the ‘goods’; the Client is one that services are done for”. The participant which benefits from the process *you* in [4.88] below is called the Recipient.

[4.88] I offer **you** the most beautiful land in the world... [49, p.38]

I	offer	you	the most beautiful land	in the world...
Actor	Pro: Material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal	Circumstance

The Client is the optional, not inherent, participant for whom some service is done. In [4.94] below, the participant *me* is the person for whose benefit the action is carried out.

[4.94] She cut **the boys** some slices of ham. [4, p.87]

She	cut	the boys	some slices of ham
Actor	Pro: Material	Beneficiary: Client	Goal

Either the Recipient or the Client may appear with or without a depending on its position in the clause. It is clear that the Recipient goes with the preposition *to*.

[4.101] After joining the army, Kien had written **to his stepfather** but had no reply. [38, p.50]

The Client has a tendency to be more restricted than the Recipient; furthermore, the Client goes with the preposition *for*, as *for boys* in [4.104] example.

[4.106] I went home to leave a note **for** **Phuong** in the rue Catinat and then drove down past the port as the sun set.

[43, p.108]

Besides, there is a special thing which is that the Recipient as well as the Client can occur together in the same clauses, as in the following example, where *me* is the Recipient and *my daughter* is the Client.

[4.111] She gave **me** a bracelet *for my daughter*. [4, p.118]

She	gave	me	a bracelet	<i>for my daughter</i>
Actor	Pro: material	Beneficiary: Recipient	Goal	Beneficiary: <i>Client</i>

Nevertheless, the prepositional phrase with 'to' or 'for' cannot be the Beneficiary in some cases. And it may be checked out by seeing if it could occur naturally without the preposition.

In Vietnamese, there exists the Beneficiary which is also divided into the Recipient named Tiếp Thủ and the Client – Khách Thủ. The Recipient and Client in Vietnamese also include the preposition. The preposition *to* which introduces the Recipient is equivalent to *cho, đến, lên, tới, với* and the preposition *for* going with the Client means *cho* in Vietnamese. The Recipient in Vietnamese is also a participant receiving the 'goods' and the Client – one that services are done for or receiving the 'services'.

[4.120] Nếu có máy bay định đến thì các cụ bình tĩnh quan sát, chỉ lối và nhường hãm **cho khách** qua đường. [59, p.67]

And the following example is involved in the Client in Vietnamese.

[4.124] Chi bộ thôn N đã khẩn trương tiến hành ... củng cố và xây dựng ý chí quyết chiến quyết thắng **cho mỗi người**. [59, p.70]

In conclusion, the Beneficiary in both English and Vietnamese is classified into either Recipient with the preposition *to* equivalent to *cho, đến, lên, tới, với* or Client with the preposition *for* equivalent to *cho* in Vietnamese.

4.1.2.2. Verbs with Beneficiary in MaPs in English and Vietnamese

In FG, Ditransitive verbs are involved in three participants, encoded syntactically as the S and the two Objects.

[4.127] Melanie **might have given** *him* his new coat... [49, p.280]

Melanie	might have given	<i>him</i>	his new coat...
Actor	Pro: Material	<i>Beneficiary</i>	Goal

The Actor is *Melanie* who carries out the action, *his new coat* is the Goal since this is the thing being given, and *him* has become the Beneficiary, who receives the action of the clause.

The verbs in MaPs are also classified into two types. Verbs which take Recipient Indirect Objects and alternative *to* Opreps are typically verbs of transferring goods, services, or information from one person to another.

[4.128] He politely **offered** the Rubi cigarette in cupped hands *to Kien*. [38, p.31]

In addition, verbs which take Client Indirect Objects, with an alternative *for* construction, are verbs which carry out an action on someone's behalf.

[4.135] **Book** *me* a seat on the night train. [4, p.87]

In Vietnamese, it is clear that the clauses which have a Recipient or a Client as an Oi are referred to as Ditransitive.

[4.141] Anh ta thiếu điều muốn ... **tặng em** năm đầm khi em giải sai bài tập. [68, p.148]

[4.146] Chiều lại cha tôi mới nhận được lời nhắn ấy khi đang **lên** đò dong *cho một ngôi nhà gần chợ Hội*. [67, p.349]

Table 4.2: Verbs followed by Recipient in MaPs

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
give, grant, hand, offer, owe, pass, read, send, deliver, sell, lend, take, render, lose, feed, assign, accord, teach, mail, show, post, sing, serve, award, throw...	đưa, ban tặng, biếu, nợ, chuyển (trao), đọc, gửi, đáp ứng, bán, cho vay, lấy, trả lại, làm mất, cho ăn, phân công, ban cho, dạy, gửi (qua bưu điện), chỉ, gửi (thư), hát, phục vụ, thưởng, ném...

Table 4.3: Verbs followed by Client in MaPs

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
<i>paint, build, buy, cook, design, cut, get, hunt, keep, save, prescribe, spare, set, pour, find, book, cash, fetch, reserve, pay, overpay, purchase, provide, sacrifice, pay, bake, mix, knit, supply...</i>	<i>son (vẽ), xây, mua, nấu (com), thiết kế, cắt, lấy, lòng sục, giữ gìn, dành dụm, kê (đơn thuốc), để dành, bố trí, đổ, tìm thấy, đặt (chỗ), trả (lĩnh tiền), tìm, để dành, trả, trả (tiền quá cao), mua sắm, cung cấp, hi sinh, trả, làm (bánh, trộn, quán (đan, phân phát),)...</i>

Moreover, there are certain verbs such as *bring, write, make, leave, pay* ... which admit either *to* or *for* as alternatives, depending on the interpretation. With the preposition *to*, the Recipient receives the thing, either physically or mentally.

Table 4.4: Verbs followed by Recipient or Client in MaPs

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
<i>bring, read, write, make, leave...</i>	<i>mang, đọc, viết, làm, để lại...</i>

4.2. LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF BENEFICIARY IN VERBAL PROCESSES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.2.1. Syntactic Features of Beneficiary in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

The Beneficiary which also appears in verbal clauses is referred to as the Receiver. The Receiver is an “oblique” participant and Halliday [9, p.255] supposes “the Receiver is the one to whom the saying is directed”. The Beneficiary or the Receiver in VerPs is the participant treated in traditional grammar as the Oi.

[4.159] I asked **the stranger** if he had breakfasted. [71, p.179]

I	asked	the stranger	if he had breakfasted
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Receiver	Reported

In Vietnamese, verbal clauses have the participant to whom the saying is addressed: the Receiver or *Tiếp Ngôn Thể*. For instance:
[4.164] Một lính thủy trong một hồ cá nhân nói **với một đồng đội**:
“Tôi có cảm giác là họ không thích chúng ta...” [59, p.54]

To cut it short, the Receiver in English and Vietnamese VerPs represents the person toward whom the words directed.

4.2.1.1. Beneficiary Expressed in Different Types of Participants in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

The Receiver is the one to whom the verbalization is addressed. The Receiver can often be followed by two participants: Verbiage and Target.

(i) Sayer + Pro: Verbal + Receiver + Verbiage

[4.168] I'll tell **you** *something else*. [48, p.189]

I	'll tell	you	<i>something else</i>
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Receiver	<i>Verbiage</i>

The Verbiage *something else* which stands after the Receiver *you* shows the domain of saying in terms of a generic category. The position of the Verbiage is usually in the back of the Receiver; however, it can be reversible, the Verbiage can be placed in front and the Receiver is often preceded by the preposition.

As far as Vietnamese is concerned, there exists this typical configuration.

[4.174] **Em** nói rõ **cho anh** *đầu đuôi câu chuyện*. [55, p.563]

(ii) Sayer + Pro: Verbal + Receiver + Target

[4.178] **I** 'm always praising **you** **to my friend**. [7, p.130]

I	'm always praising	<i>you</i>	to my friend
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	<i>Target</i>	Receiver

In the above clause, its configuration also comprises three participants which are Sayer, Target and Receiver. In two typical above-mentioned models, it is quite clear that this structure is more restricted.

In Vietnamese, there exist clauses with three participants – Sayer, Receiver, and Target – are also known as Ditransitive clauses.

[4.183] **Người ta** ca ngợi *cô* là người *đàn bà phúc hậu, con cái đỗ đạt, làm ăn chu chỉnh* **với tôi**. [64, p.51]

In short, both English and Vietnamese use these two configurations and the choice of the first configuration with Verbiage is more common than the second in VerPs.

4.2.1.2. Reversibility of Beneficiary in Passive Clauses in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

The Receiver in English as well as Vietnamese may be S in a clause which is ‘receptive’. We can see the change of its position in the following example; for example, in [4.186] clauses:

[4.186] I can persuade **her** to change her mind. [49, p.125]

I	can	persuade	her	to change her mind
Sayer	Pro: Verbal		Receiver	Reported

Table 4.9: The Reversibility of Participants in Passive Clause

She	can be	persuaded	to change her mind	(by me)
S	F	P	Od	(A)
Receiver	Pro: Verbal		Reported	Phenomenon

The Receiver *she* is mapped onto the Oi in active voice clauses, but it becomes the S in passive clauses. And the Sayer *me* can be present or absent because it is not important and obligatory.

However, some verbs such as *mention, announce, explain, admit, declare,...* do not take regular Oi nor can the Receiver become S in a corresponding passive clause.

We observe that Vietnamese also has the passivization of the Receiver in the verbal clause. However, our observation reveals that the Receiver in English active sentences can be changed into S of passive verbal clauses while the Vietnamese ones cannot in some cases.

[4.192] **Gia đình anh được các đồng chí ở đơn vị anh về kể lại** rằng trong lúc chiến đấu, anh đã hai lần bị thương, nhưng vẫn không rời vị trí của mình. [59, p.29]

To sum up, the passive voice of the verbal clause exists in English and Vietnamese; furthermore, the reversibility of the Receiver takes place in passive verbal clause.

4.2.1.3. Projection with Beneficiary in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

Bloor T & M [1, p.57] says that where a clause is projected, the clause containing the VerP will be the projecting clause and the other clause will be projected clause and containing any process type. Besides, the Receiver can appear in the projecting clause or not, it will depend on the verbs of the projecting clause.

[4.196] “You'd better come and have lunch with me,” I said **to Dirk**. [71, p.141]

“You'd better come and have lunch with me,”	I	said	to Dirk
	Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Receiver
Projected	Projecting		

[4.197] She informed **me** that *Ham and Em'ly were an orphan nephew and niece...* [40, p.66]

Projection typically concerns the relation between a verbal clause and the content which it quotes or reports. VerPs with the projection are concerned with the speech role: the projection of propositions and the projection of proposals.

In almost the same way, VerPs in Vietnamese are possible to project. The VerP can project a ‘saying’. In Vietnamese VerPs, the projecting clause is the verbal clause and the projected clause can belong to any kind of process.

[4.218] Đồng chí Thập, tổ trưởng, động viên **đồng đội**: “*Tiến lên trả thù cho đồng chí Ngán*”. [59, p.209]

Moreover, the absence of the Receiver in Vietnamese verbal clause can happen.

[4.222] Mẹ dặn *em có dậy thì cho em ăn củ khoai to*. [64, p.270]

Mẹ	dặn	<i>em</i>	<i>có dậy</i>	<i>thì</i>	<i>cho em</i>	<i>ăn</i>	<i>củ khoai to</i>
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Actor	Pro: Material		Beneficiary	Pro: Material	Goal

4.2.2. Semantic Features of Beneficiary in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

It is certain that the Receiver is semantically realized by a nominal group typically denoting a conscious being (a potential

speaker), a collective or an institution.

[4.225] He explained to **the commandant**, “Thomas here’s the best friend I have.” [43, p.73]

And reflexive pronouns like *herself, himself, myself...* known as the Receiver are also used in VerPs. Reflexive pronouns in Vietnamese can be expressed by the word “*tự*”.

Like English, the Receiver that is involved in Vietnamese VerPs is also typically human – conscious in term of semantics as *các bạn Sài Gòn* in the following example:

[4.230] Nhân dân Củ Chi đã kết luận với **các bạn Sài Gòn**: “Quân Mỹ là thứ không ra gì. Các bạn cứ đánh mạnh đi, Củ Chi sẽ cùng phối hợp”. [59, p.17]

The use of non-conscious entity as Receiver in a VerP is often found out in some special cases of personification.

[4.235] “How are you?” the old man asked **the bird**. [44, p.20]

Nevertheless, the presence of the addressee is not obligatory in some VerPs.

[4.236] “Most verra big,” she *warned* again. [48, p.165]

In conclusion, it is common that the Receiver in VerPs is dealt with by the nominal group representing a conscious-being in either English or Vietnamese; occasionally, non-conscious entity when it is personalized.

4.2.2.1. Prepositions with Beneficiary in verbal processes in English and Vietnamese

The Receiver is like a verbal Beneficiary, and can often (but not always) be marked by the preposition *to*.

[4.1] I said **to Phuong’s sister**, “I hope you’ve had the settlement.” [43, p.127]

Halliday [9, p. 255] proclaims that the nominal group either occurs on its own or is marked almost always by the preposition *to* but sometimes by *of* and *at*.

In Vietnamese, VerPs also use the preposition that stands in the front of the Receiver. The meaning of the prepositions *to, of, and at* is equivalent to *cho, với* in Vietnamese.

[4.252] Nhưng cũng ngay trong cái lúc ấy, mỗi ngọn cỏ như thì thầm **với tôi** rằng anh ấy đã chết, thực đã chết rồi. [60, p.162]

To put it in a nutshell, the preposition may be placed before the Receiver in both English and Vietnamese VerPs. The Receiver in English VerPs is marked the most frequently by the preposition *to* and occasionally *of* and *at* which mean *cho* and *với* in Vietnamese.

4.2.2.2. Verbs with Beneficiary in VerPs in English and Vietnamese

The process of a verbal clause is realized by a verbal group where the lexical verb is one of saying. Verbs in verbal clauses may be divided into four groups: verbs without the Receiver, verbs with the Receiver optional, the preposition required with the Receiver, verbs with the Receiver nearly always required and verbs with the Receiver optional.

The participant – Receiver is mapped onto the Oi. However, with some verbs, the Receiver is not normally mentioned by the verbs in VerPs such as *add...*

Firstly, the verbs in verbal clauses may or may not take the Receiver such as *say, explain, mention, point out, reply, admit, shout, demand...* However, if the Receiver is used, the preposition must precede it.

[4.264] "Smells good, don't it?" one of them **said to Kien**. [38, p.84]

The Receiver *Kien* is not compulsory in the above-mentioned examples; they can be absent and do not impact on their grammaticality.

[4.25] He **would whisper** a word for Can's soul, the soul of a comrade.... [38, p.19]

Likewise, with verbs with the Receiver optional, the preposition required with the Receiver, Vietnamese also has verbs like *nói, thì thầm, đề cập, lưu ý, thừa nhận...*

[4.275] Tôi còn **bày cho** *Hài* cò *nhều* chuyện lạ khác nữa. Hết uống tôi chuyển sang ăn. Tôi không thềm bới cơm vô chén như trước nay. [51, p.188]

Table 4.10: Verbs with the Receiver Optional, the Preposition Required with the Receiver in VerPs

English	Vietnamese
<i>say, report, announce, reply, complain, pretend, propose, whisper, convey, point out, mention, explain, prove, impart, vow, reveal, shout, demand, confide, admit,...</i>	<i>nói, báo cáo, loan báo, trả lời, phàn nàn, giả vờ, đề nghị, thì thầm, truyền đạt, lưu ý, đề cập, giải thích, chứng minh, phổ biến, hứa hẹn, tiết lộ, nói to, hỏi (yêu cầu), kể (một bí mật), thừa nhận,...</i>

Secondly, the verbs with the Receiver required must be followed by an Oi or a participant – the Receiver in FG. And the verbs are *assure, convince, inform, notify, remind, tell, admonish...*

[4.276] I'll **tell** *you* all the information I know. [38, p.33]

The Vietnamese verbs with the Receiver required are *thuyết phục, kể, thông báo, khai báo, cam đoan, nhắc nhở...*

[4.281] Chị! Em cam đoan với chị, anh Đạo không phải là người như vậy đâu. [63, p.138]

Table 4.11: Verbs with the Receiver Required in VerPs

English	Vietnamese
<i>convince, persuade, tell, notify, inform, assure, remind,...</i>	<i>thuyết phục, kể, thông báo, khai báo, cam đoan, nhắc nhở,...</i>

Thirdly, the verbs which may or may not be gone after by the Receiver consist of *ask, promise, show, teach, warn, urge, notice....* The speaker can decide whether or not to mention the Receiver.

[4.285] Kien's friends **emerged to advise** *him* to rejoin the army. [38, p.62]

[4.286] "Get there early," she **advise**. [45, p.59]

The verbs equivalent in Vietnamese are *ra lệnh, cảnh báo, khuyên, thúc giục, hứa hẹn...*

[4.295] Cậu mợ **hẹn** với *em* rằng phải để Sơn đến nhà vài lần cho cậu mợ biết mặt biết người hãy hay. [55, p.521]

Table 4.12: Verbs with the Receiver Optional in VerPs

English	Vietnamese
<i>order, warn, advise, urge, promise, command, show, teach, ask, entreat, beg, beseech, implore, threaten,...</i>	<i>ra lệnh, cảnh báo, khuyên, thúc giục, hứa hẹn, ra lệnh, chỉ bảo, dạy dỗ, yêu cầu, khẩn nài, cầu xin, cầu khẩn, van xin, đe dọa...</i>

In a nutshell, the process of a verbal clause is realized by a verbal group where the lexical verb is one of saying.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

5.1. CONCLUDING REMARK

The Beneficiary is a participant which can be present mainly in MaPs and VerPs. In MaPs, the Beneficiary is the Recipient that goods are given to or the Client that services are done for. In addition, the Beneficiary is called the Receiver in VerPs.

In terms of syntax, the Beneficiary in both MaPs and VerPs is realized chiefly as the Oi by the nominal group denoting semantically conscious-being, sometimes, an animal or an abstract entity. However, the Beneficiary can also be treated as *ing*-clause in English; this concept exists only in English, not in Vietnamese.

The second characteristic of the Beneficiary in English and Vietnamese MaPs and VerPs is involved with the different types of participants. The Beneficiary in MaPs has two typical configurations:

- **Actor + Pro: Material + Goal + Beneficiary**
- **Actor + Pro: Material + Range + Beneficiary**

And the Beneficiary in VerPs is also comprised of two structures:

- **Sayer + Pro: Verbal + Receiver + Verbiage**

- **Sayer + Pro: Verbal + Receiver + Target**

The statistics show that the Beneficiary followed by the Range and Verbiage is richer and more common in both languages.

Besides, the Beneficiary in both processes can reverse in passive voice and it is mapped onto the S. More importantly, it can be absent but does not influence on the grammaticality of the clause. In addition, it is interesting that the Beneficiary can be placed in front of the Actor at the beginning of the sentence to get information focus of the clause in MaPs.

Also, projection is a special characteristic of VerPs. Our observation shows that all aspects of projection are similar to each other in both languages. The only difference between two languages is, nonetheless, that Vietnamese does not have the concept of non-finite clause.

Moreover, the Beneficiary in MaPs goes with the preposition *to* for the Recipient equivalent to *cho, tới, lên, đến, với* and *for* for the Client equivalent to *cho* in Vietnamese. In the same way, the Beneficiary in VerPs precedes the preposition *to*, sometimes *of* and *at* which also means *cho* and *với* in Vietnamese. In terms of frequency of occurrence in table 4.6 and 4.7, the preposition *to* in English MaPs equivalent *cho, tới, lên, đến, với* in Vietnamese is more frequently used.

Additionally, verbs in MaPs can be sub-divided into three kinds: verbs followed by Recipient, verbs followed by Client, and verbs followed by Recipient or Client. And verbs of English VerPs can consist of four kinds: verbs without the Receiver, verbs with the Receiver optional, the preposition required with the Receiver, verbs with the Receiver nearly always required and verbs with the Receiver optional. This classification does not exist in Vietnamese, but the Receiver can easily be added in the back of nearly most verbs. The detail of their distribution rates are expressed in tables 4.8 and 4.14 and clearly drawn in charts 4.3 and 4.5.

Finally, there are other differences of the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese. However, the analysis and explanation as well as discussion with many examples of both

languages can show good reasons for treating the Beneficiary separately in Vietnamese on the basis of English features.

5.2. PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Our research presented above mainly compare the Beneficiary between English and Vietnamese; therefore, it makes an offer to contribute usefully and significantly toward foreign language teaching, more specifically to the teaching of English writing and translation.

Potential problems pointed out in the research are concerned with the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs. It is important for Vietnamese learners of English to understand clearly the similarities and differences between the Beneficiaries in MaPs and VerPs in either English or Vietnamese in order to write and communicate effectively. More necessarily, the differences are emphasized for Vietnamese learners to learn and apply them in the appropriate manner for the desired result.

The syntactic and semantic features of the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs are clearly and fully illustrated in our thesis. Also, we indicate the verbs and the prepositions which accompany the Beneficiaries in both processes. In addition, the position of the Beneficiary is an interesting characteristic in MaPs and VerPs. More importantly, its typical configurations and its absence are illustrated in chapter 4. The projection is a special aspect of VerPs and the Beneficiary is present in the projecting clause. All are analyzed and explained in order to make a significant contribution for teachers and learners of English as well as those interested in FG to understand clearly the Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese and communicate effectively.

5.3. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTHER STUDY

- An investigation into linguistic features of Beneficiary in relational processes in English and Vietnamese.
- The distinguished features of Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese.
- An investigation into pragmatic features of Beneficiary in MaPs and VerPs in English and Vietnamese.