

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SYNTACTIC
AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF VERB
PHRASES EXPRESSING VICTORY AND
DEFEAT IN TENNIS COMMENTARIES IN
ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Sports in particular have always been a common form of entertainment. In the last decades, with the rise of television broadcast with increasingly better filming technology, sports has become commercialized, viewed by millions and a common form of popular culture and tennis is one of those sports. It is also considered by many to be the worlds. Thus, the role of the commentators is very important. They have to provide commentary about the game and to entertain at the same time. They have to deal with the unfolding events on the pitch linguistically without hesitation. The nature of their job and the unusual linguistic setting is what makes their speech so specific. So how can they use the language to make their sports commentaries interesting and attract the audiences as well as the readers.

The following are some examples of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in English:

- (1.1) *The world No1 **came out against** his Swiss opponent to win his ten slam title over four thrilling sets to win his 10th Grand Slam title.* [1]
- (1.2) *Kerber kept pressing, and quickly **forced** three more break points in Robson's next service game only to be denied again.* [2]
- (1.3) *The big Argentinian **has crushed** Stephane Robert 6-1, 7-5, 6-0.* [3]

And in Vietnamese:

- (1.4) *Novak Djokovic **đánh bại** Roger Federer sau 4 set (6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4) để đăng quang chức vô địch US Open 2015.* [4]
- (1.5) *Dimitrov **hạ gục** Nadal ở tứ kết giải Trung Quốc mở rộng.* [5]
- (1.6) *Ferrer đã **chiến thắng** trước tay vợt trẻ Alexander Zverev (Nga, hạng 24 thế giới) với tỷ số 2-1 (6/7, 6/1, 7/5).* [6]

Such expressions “came out on top against” seems to be unfamiliar to the Vietnamese learners of English in terms of cognitive view and linguistic structure.

The importance of using languages in sports commentaries were concerned and analyzed by many linguists in Viet Nam and in over the world, such as: Nguyen Thi Kieu Ngan (2011) [13] and Tran Van Chanh (2011) [12]. However, none of their studies have approached the issues of sport language from the view of cognitive semantics and functional grammar. With the assumption that verbs of this kind play an important role the language of sport commentaries, I study the semantics of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in perspectives of Cognitive semantics of Functional Grammar. I hope that the Vietnamese learners of English will be able to further understand about semantic functions of sport expressions of victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese as well as avoid making errors when using them.

From that reasons, I choose the topic for my proposal: “*An investigation into the syntactic and semantic features of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in English and Vietnamese*”.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

This study aims to examine the syntactic and semantics features of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries. The finding of the study is to help the Vietnamese learners of English to have a better insight into these verbs and to be more aware of Verb phrases used in tennis commentaries, propose some implications for learning and teaching English as a foreign language

1.2.2. Objectives

With the aim mentioned above, this study is intended to:

- Describe the Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in terms of syntactic and semantic features in English and Vietnamese
- Point out the similarities and differences of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in terms of syntactic and semantic features in English and Vietnamese
- Offer some suggestions for the comprehending and evaluation of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study tried to find the answers to the following three questions:

1. What are the syntactic features of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in English and Vietnamese?
2. What are the semantic features of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in English and Vietnamese?
3. What are the similarities and differences in terms of syntactic and semantic features of Verb phrases expressing victory

and defeat in tennis commentaries in English and Vietnamese?

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is confined to the syntactic and semantic features of Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese which focus mainly on those used in tennis commentaries through the analysis of data collection from tennis newspapers and magazines in both English and Vietnamese.

1.5. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In this study, the researcher explores Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat from tennis newspapers and then analyzes them in terms of syntactic and semantic features to find out the similarities and differences between the Verb phrases in each group of expressing victory and defeat through clarifying their meanings and syntactic functions.

This study is also expected to provide a better understanding of how to use Verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in making tennis commentaries with conceptual images which are more interesting and attracting more and more readers, audiences and viewers.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

- Chapter One : Introduction
- Chapter Two : Literature Review and Theoretical
Background
- Chapter Three : Research Methods
- Chapter Four : Findings and Discussion
- Chapter Five : Conclusions

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. THE REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE STUDY

Guranda focused on using Systemic Functional Grammar approach describe the modal verb can semantically, syntactically and to give a broad picture of the situation in the written and spoken modern.

There also have been many researches done about Verb phrases in Vietnam as well as in over the world: Nguyen Thi Kieu Ngan (2011) [13], represented the sematic features of synonym used in sports commentaries on football and their collocation. Tran Van Chanh (2011) [12], mentioned about the Adjectives and their collocations as Modifiers of Noun phrases in football commentaries in English and Vietnamese. Tran Huu Thuan (2014) [14] shows the differences between linguistic features of appreciation in football commentaries in English and Vietnamese.

To sum up, all these studies were to a large extent a help to make my choice of research topic. This paper represents an effort to combine the best observations of the earlier studies with new results of my research. There has not been a detailed analysis of Verb phrases used in tennis commentaries in perspective of Functional Grammar and Causation.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Verb phrases

Verb phrases are headed to the extent that they are composed of two kinds of element, auxiliaries and main verbs, such that every

unreduced verb phrase contains a main verb, but not necessarily an auxiliary. Verb phrases consist of a main verb which either stands alone as the entire verb phrase, or is preceded by up to four verbs in an auxiliary function. (Table 2.1)

Moreover, Verb phrases generally are divided among two types: finite verbs and non-finite verbs (such as: infinitive, participle or gerund). Narrowly but Verb phrases can be defined as phrases which are headed to the extent that they are composed of two kinds of element, auxiliaries and main verbs, such that every unreduced verb phrase contains a main verb, but not necessarily an auxiliary.

2.2.2. Verb phrase in view of Clause as Exchange in Functional Grammar

a. The Mood Element

According to Halliday (1985) [1], Mood consists of two parts: (1) the Subject, which is a nominal group, and (2) the Finite element, which is part of a verbal group. The Subject may be any nominal group. The Finite element is one of a small number of verbal operators expressing tense or modality. However, in some instances the Finite element and the lexical verb are ‘fused’ into a single word,.

b. The Residue

In Halliday’s views (1985) [1], the Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. There can be only one Predicator, one or two complements, and an indefinite number of Adjuncts. The Predicator is present in all non – elliptical major clauses, apart from certain clauses with verbs *be* and *have*. It is realized by a verbal group minus the temporal or modal operator, which as we have seen functions as Finite in the Mood element.

2.2.3. Verb phrase in view of Clause as Representation in Functional Grammar

In English, there are a few processes, like raining, which are left unanalyzed; but more typically the English language structures each experience as a semantic configuration on the principle illustrated above, consisting of process, participants and circumstantial elements. One way of looking at the situation is this; the process is the most central element in the configuration. Participants are close to the center; they are directly involved in the process, bringing about its occurrence or being affected by it in some way. And we can say that the configuration of process + participants constitutes the experiential center of the clause. Circumstantial elements augment this center in some way - temporally, spatially, causally and so on; but their status in the configuration is more peripheral and unlike participants they are not directly involved in the process.

- Material processes: processes of doing and happening

The ‘material’ clauses construe the procedure as a sequence of concrete changes in the trees brought about by the person being instructed - the implicit ‘you’. In ‘material’ clauses in general, the source of the energy bringing about the change is typically a participant - the Actor.

- Intransitive

In a ‘material’ clause, there is always one participant — the Actor. This participant brings about the unfolding of the process through time, leading to an outcome that is different from the initial phase of the unfolding. This outcome may be confined to the Actor itself, in which case there is only one participant inherent in the process. Such a ‘material’ clause represents a happening and, using traditional terminology, we can call it intransitive.

- Transitive

The unfolding of the process may extend to another participant, the Goal, impacting it in some way: the outcome is registered on the Goal in the first instance, rather than on the Actor. Such a ‘material’ clause represents a doing and we can call it transitive.

2.3. SUMMARY

In summary, chapter two of this paper presents previous studies related to the research. It has given out the general introduction about tennis commentaries in English and Vietnamese. Besides, the theoretical background is a very necessary source of knowledge to provide readers for the first insight into understanding thoroughly what were discussed in this paper. The concepts of verbs, verb phrases, the classification of verbs expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese were revealed. What is more, the syntactic features of verb phrases in view of Clause as Exchange and semantic features of verb phrases in view of Clause as Representation in Functional Grammar were mentioned as a basic foundation for the investigation in this study.

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODS

3.1. RESEACH DESIGN

In order to make a study on language manipulation in the sports commentaries, both qualitative and quantitative research design were resorted to the study

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

As mentioned above, the qualitative and quantitative designs were used to find out the semantic features of the Verb phrases.

Descriptive method was used in order to give a detailed description of the syntactic and semantic features of Verb phrases with quantitative and qualitative information. The methods and techniques for collecting the qualitative and quantitative data was observation of the instances of samples of Verb phrases in the tennis commentaries

3.3. DATA COLLECTION

3.3.1. Sampling of Study

3.3.2. Instrument

3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

3.7. SUMMARY

This chapter presents research methodology and the ways to get samples, instrumentation and procedure of the data collection. Additionally, how to make data reliable and valid in the thesis are also mentioned in this chapter.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF VERB PHRASES EXPRESSING VICTORY AND DEFEAT IN TENNIS COMMENTARIES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.1.1. The Syntactic Features of English Verb Phrases of Victory and Defeat in view of Clause as Exchange

In this section, we analyzed the Verb phrases in tennis commentaries in view of clause of exchange. The verb phrase is organized in Mood and Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: (1) the Subject, which is a nominal group, and (2) the Finite element,

which is part of a verbal group. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. There can be only one Predicator, one or two complements, and an indefinite number of Adjuncts. Let's consider to the non-finite clauses which contains a Predicator but no Finite element

MODEL 2:
SUBJECT PREDICATOR ADJUNCT

(4.34) *Nadal triumphed at Masters in Madrid 6.* [48]

Nadal		triumphed	at Masters in Madrid 6
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

Figure 4.1. Subject, Predicator and Adjunct in English

In this example, we have two elements: the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: the Subject “Nadal” and Finite: the verb is in simple past, positive, neutral, active. The Residue consists of functional elements of two kinds: Predicator “**triumph**” and Adjunct “at Masters in Madrid 6”. The verb **triumph** is intransitive.

MODEL 4:
SUBJECT PREDICATOR COMPLEMENT ADJUNCT

(4.37) *Williams beats Kerber in straight sets.* [60]

Williams		beats	Kerber	in straight sets
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

Figure 4.4. Subject, Predicator, Complement and Adjunct in English

In this example, we have the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: the Subject “Williams” and Finite: the verb is in simple present, positive, neutral, active. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator “**beats**”,

Complement “Kerber” and Adjunct “in straight sets”. The Predicator **beat** in this sentence is transitive.

The following Models, we will consider to the Verb phrases which containing a Predicator and Finite elements.

MODEL 8: SUBJECT FINITE PREDICATOR ADJUNCT
--

(4.44) *Verdasco **has won** the fourth set 6-3.* [51]

Verdasco	has	won	the fourth set 6-3
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood	Residue		

Figure 4.11. Subject, Finite, Predicator and Adjunct in English

In this example, we have the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: the Subject “Verdasco” and the Finite “has”. The Residue consists of functional elements of two kinds: Predicator “won” and Adjunct “the fourth set 6-3”. The Finite *has* is Primary Tense. It follows after Subject *Verdasco* and before the Predicator *won*. The Predicator *won* in this sentence is intransitive.

MODEL 9: SUBJECT FINITE PREDICATOR COMPLEMENT ADJUNCT

(4.46) *Thiem **has trounced** Adrian Mannarino 6-1, 6-3 in the round of 4.* [59]

Thiem	has	trounced	Sonoraville	in state tennis opener
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood	Residue			

Figure 4.13. Subject, Finite, Predicator, Complement and Adjunct in English

In this example, we have the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: the Subject “Thiem” and the Finite “has”. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator “**trounce**”, Complement “Sonoraville” and Adjunct “the fourth set 6-3”. The verb **trounce** in this sentence is transitive.

In these examples which contain both Finite *has, have, had* and Predicator *won, shocked, trounced, thrashed, ousted, edged* and *beaten* we can see that the Finite are in the sense of possess, expressing the present perfect tense: *has, have* and past perfect tense *had*. The Predicators are transitive: *beat, edge, thrash, oust* and intransitive: *win*. In conclusion, both finite and non-finite verb phrases have transitive and intransitive. We can see at the table 4.5.

4.1.2. The Syntactic Features of Vietnamese Verb Phrases of Victory and Defeat in view of Clause as Exchange

Let’s consider some Vietnamese examples with non-finite

MODEL 2:
SUBJECT PREDICATOR ADJUNCT

(4.51) *Nadal **chiến thắng** dễ dàng trong set quyết định.* [54]

Nadal		chiến thắng	dễ dàng	trong set quyết định
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Comment Adjunct	Adjunct
Mood	Residue			

Figure 4.18. Subject, Predicator and Adjunct in Vietnamese

In this example, we have the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of two parts: Subject “Thiem” and Finite: the verb is in simple present, active, positive and neutral. The Residue consists of functional elements of two kinds: Predicator “**chiến thắng**” and Adjunct “trong set quyết định”. The verb “**chiến thắng**” in this

sentence is intransitive.

MODEL 4:				
SUBJECT PREDICATOR COMPLEMENT ADJUNCT				
(4.53) <i>Murray nghiền nát Chardy ở tứ kết.</i> [73]				
Murray		nghiền nát	Chardy	ở tứ kết
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

Figure 4.20. Subject, Predicator, Complement and Adjunct in Vietnamese

From this example, we can see that there are two elements: the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of: Subject “Murray” and Finite: the verb is in simple present, active, positive and neutral. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator “**nghiền nát**” Complement “Chardy” and Adjunct “ở tứ kết”. The verb **nghiền nát** is Transitive.

MODEL 8:				
SUBJECT FINITE PREDICATOR COMPLEMENT ADJUNCT				
(4.61) <i>Murray đã khuất phục đối phương với tỷ số 7-4.</i> [76]				
Murray	đã	khuất phục	đối phương	với tỷ số 7-4
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

Figure 4.28. Adjunct, Finite, Subject, Predicator, Adjunct, Complement and Adjunct in Vietnamese

From this example, we can see that there are two elements: the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of: Subject “Murray”, Finite “đã” is in simple past, active, positive and neutral. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator “**khuất phục**”, Complement “đối phương” and Adjunct “với tỷ số 7-4. The Verb **khuất phục** is transitive.

4.1.3. Remarks on Similarities and Differences of Verb Phrases Expressing Victory and Defeat in English and Vietnamese in terms of Syntactic Features

To put statistics for verb phrases expressing victory and defeat used in English and Vietnamese tennis commentaries in comparison and contrast in term of syntactic features, some findings can be observed.

a. Similarities

As seen from the figures in the parts of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English in terms of syntactic features, both English and Vietnamese verb phrases have a variety of from. In view of Clause as Exchange, there are two parts in the sentences: the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of Subject Finite. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. For examples, in transitive structure: *ATP World Tour Finals: Djokovic **edged** Raonic in two tie breaks* in English and *Nadal **đánh bại** Federer trong trận "siêu kinh điển" làng Tennis*. In this example, the Mood consists of Subject *Djokovic and Nadal*, there is not Finite element. The Residue consists of Predicator ***edged, đánh bại***; Complement *Raonic, Federer* and Adjunct *in two tie breaks, trong trận "siêu kinh điển" làng Tennis*

b. Differences

A distinguished feature of Vietnamese verb phrases is that: there is the explicitness of finite in English. However in Vietnamese, the finite is suppressed. For examples:

One more interesting point out the differences between English and Vietnamese verb phrases. In English, almost of verb phrases consists of one morpheme, such as: *crash, edge, win,...* same as Vietnamese verb phrases *thắng, loại,...* In English, we can use

derived verbs which combine from two morphemes, such as: *up+set*, *de+feat* while in Vietnamese we use Phrasal verbs from two morphemes/ words, such as: *chiến + thắng*, *đánh + bại*, *nghiên + nát*, *lật + đổ*, *hạ + gục*, *làm + gỏi*

4.1.4. Summary

In conclusion, this part compares the verb phrase expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese in term of syntactic features and view of Clause as Exchange in Functional Grammar. There are some similarities and differences as I mention above.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF VERB PHRASES EXPRESSING VICTORY AND DEFEAT IN TENNIS COMMENTARIES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.2.1. Clause as Representation

In this section, we analyzed the Verb phrases express victory and defeat in view of clause of representation. The basic semantic framework for the representation of processes is very simple. A process consists potentially of three components: the **process** itself, **participants** in the process and **circumstances** associated with the process. These provide the frame of reference of interpreting our experience of what goes on.

English examples:

MODEL 1: PARTICIPANT PROCESS CIRCUMSTANCE

(4.66) *Nadal triumphed at Masters in Madrid 6.* [8]

Nadal	triumphed	at Masters in Madrid 6
Actor	Process: Material: action	Circumstance: Location: temporal

Nominal group: the Thing: personal pronoun	Verbal group	Prepositional phrase
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Figure 4.33. Actor, Process and Circumstance in English

There are three elements in this sentence: Participant: Actor “Nadal”, Process: Material: action “**triumphed**” and Circumstances: Location: temporal “at Masters in Madrid 6”. Participant is a Nominal group: the Thing: personal pronoun; Process is a Verbal Group and Circumstance is a Prepositional phrase. The Verb **triumph** in this example is Intransitive.

MODEL 2:

PARTICIPANT PROCESS PARTICIPANT CIRCUMSTANCE

(4.69) *Williams beats Kerber in straight sets.*

[11]

Williams	beats	Kerber	in straight sets
Actor	Process: Material: action	Goal	Circumstance: Location: temporal
Nominal group: the Thing: personal: pronoun	Verbal group	Nominal group: the Thing: personal: pronoun	Prepositional phrase

Figure 4.36. Actor, Process, Goal and Circumstance in English

Vietnamese examples:

MODEL 1:

PARTICIPANT PROCESS CIRCUMSTANCE

(4.80) *Nadal **chiến thắng** dễ dàng trong set quyết định.* [54]

Nadal	chiến thắng	dễ dàng	trong set quyết định
Actor	Process: Material: action	Circumstance: Manner: quality	Circumstance: Location: temporal
Nominal group: the Thing: personal: pronoun	Verbal group	Adverbial Group	Prepositional phrase

Figure 4.47. Circumstance, Actor, Process, Goal and Circumstance in Vietnamese

MODEL 2: PARTICIPANT PROCESS PARTICIPANT CIRCUMSTANCE

(4.81) Murray **nghiền nát** Chardy ở tứ kết. [73]

Murray	nghiền nát	Chardy	ở tứ kết
Actor	Process: Material: action	Goal	Circumstance: Location: Spatial
Nominal group: the Thing: personal: pronoun	Verbal group	Nominal group: the Thing: personal: pronoun	Prepositional phrase

Figure 4.42. Circumstance, Actor, Process, Goal and Circumstance in Vietnamese

4.2.2. Analysis of the Semantic Fields of some Verb Phrases Expressing Victory and Defeat in English and Vietnamese in term of Causativity

There are some causative verbs mentioned in the chapter 4.2 above such as: *Defeat, Beat, Conquer, Trounce, Thrash, Crush,*

Knock out, Hammer, Upset, Crash . The causative verbs in tables 4. can be used in the modelized pattern as a typical lexical causative construction $X V_{CAUSATIVE} Y$. At first look, the pattern $X V_{CAUSATIVE} Y$ implies a natural activity which suggests little about the success of causation as well as the interaction between the causer and causee.

In Vietnamese causative verbs like: *đánh bại hoàn toàn, đánh cho thua toi bời* in (61), (59) and (63) and *nghiền nát* in (3) encode the two semantic parts: causing verb and resulting verb. The resulting verb may be an action or a state depending on the meanings of the Vietnamese translational equivalents.

However, there are some Vietnamese causative verbs expressed with the analytic causative construction $X V_{CAUSATIVE} Y V_{RESULT}$. Table 4.23b below will show the construction

Semantically, with analytic causative constructions, X has the semantic properties of a subject, the role which is most relevant to the success of the activity. Analytic constructions relate the subject of complement clause to impedance of the success of the activity.

In the lexical causative type, the subject agent as causer receives the focus as a default case whereas in the analytic type, the focus may be shifted to the subject agent as the causee. This is explicated in the result where the causee is understood as the performer of the action or state.

4.2.3. Remarks on Similarities and Differences of Verb Phrases Expressing Victory and Defeat in English and Vietnamese in terms of Semantic Features

a. Similarities

Semantically, English and Vietnamese verb phrases expressing victory and defeat have the following common semantic features:

In a clause of material process, there is one participant, who is

human, this is **actor**; the one that does something and **process**. This happen in intransitivity structure, for examples: In English: *Federer wins the first two points of the tie break*. In Vietnamese: *Nadal **chiến thắng** dễ dàng trong set quyết định*. From these examples, we can see that: there is one participant – the Actor *Federer, Nadal* realized by Nominal group. Material process *wins, **chiến thắng*** and Circumstance *the first two points of the tie break, dễ dàng trong set quyết định* realized by a nominal group.

In a clause of material, there are two participants, the Actor and the Goal, This is more popular and this happen in transitivity structure, for examples in English *Novak Djokovic **has edged** Julien Benneteau at the Rogers Cup* and in Vietnamese *Murray **lật đổ** Djokovic tại Rogers Cup*. From these examples, we can see that: there are two participants – the Actor *Novak Djokovic, Murray* realized by Nominal group. Material process ***has edged, lật đổ*** and Goal *Julien Benneteau, Djokovic and Circumstance the first two points of the tie break, dễ dàng trong set quyết định* realized by a nominal group *at the Rogers Cup, tại Rogers Cup*.

b. Differences

Apart from the above similarities, the study also point out some considerable differences between verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese.

With respect to semantic features, the differences about Causality can show that: In English, causative process and causative result are encoded in one verb phrase *crash*. However in Vietnamese, the meanings of verb phrases are encoded into: *nghiền* (causative process) + *nát* (causative result). Examples:

(4.96) *Trận đấu cuối cùng: Clijsters **đánh bại** Venus Williams 2.* [82]

(4.97) Murray **nghiền nát** Chardy ở tứ kết. [46]

Causer	Causative process	Causative Result	Causee
Clijsters	đánh	bại	Venus Williams 2
Murray	nghiền	nát	Chardy

Figure 4.61. Causer, Causative process, Causative Result and Causee in Vietnamese

However, in English the causative process and causative result can be expressed in one verb phrase, examples:

(4.98) The big Argentinian **has crushed** Stephane Robert 6-1, 7-5, 6-0. [27]

Semantic function / Contrastive language	Causer	Causative process	Causative result	Causee
English	The big Argentinian	has crushed		Stephane Robert
Vietnamese	Anh chàng Aentina không lò	đã nghiền	nát	Stephane Robert

Figure 4.62. Causer, Causative process, Causative Result and Causee in English versus Vietnamese

From the examples, we can see that in English the causative verbs are made of three main elements: causer – process – causee in which the process is realized by only one verb form: causing verb **crush**. However, in Vietnamese, the process of causative verbs encodes the two semantic parts: causing verb and resulting verb, such as: causing verbs **đã nghiền** and resulting verbs **nát**.

4.3. SUMMARY

In this chapter, English and Vietnamese verb phrases expressing victory and defeat were introduced, discussed and analyzed to find out the similarities and differences in terms of syntax and semantic. A lot of data from Vietnamese and English source were used for comprehensive observation of using these verbs. In order to solve the problem, I would like to offer some implications which will be presented in detail in chapter five.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

From the result presented in the foregoing chapter about the syntactic and semantic features of Verb phrases in the tennis commentaries, this chapter summarizes the main finding as conclusions and provides some implications and suggestions for English learners.

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

Through the result of data collection and data analysis of English and Vietnamese verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries, the following are what the study has reached:

With respect to the syntactic features, the study has demonstrated the ability of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese. Most of them (predicators) are transitive; they combine with nouns (complement) in finite clause. In this clause as seen from the figures in the parts of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English in terms of syntactic features, both English and Vietnamese verb phrases have a variety of from. In view of Clause as Exchange, there are two parts in the

sentences: the Mood and the Residue. The Mood consists of Subject and Finite. The Residue consists of functional elements of three kinds: Predicator, Complement and Adjunct. A distinguished feature of Vietnamese verb phrases is that: there is the explicitness of finite in English. However in Vietnamese, the finite is suppressed. About the differences, verb phrases in English consists of one morpheme, such as: *crash, edge, win,...* same as Vietnamese verb phrases *thắng, loai,...* However, in English we can use derived verbs which combine from two morphemes, such as: *up+set, de+feat* while in Vietnamese we use Phrasal verbs from two morphemes/ words, such as: *chiến + thắng, đánh + bại, nghiền + nát, lật + đổ, hạ + gục, làm + gỏi.*

From the semantic analysis of the examples taken from English and Vietnamese tennis commentaries, we can come to the conclusion that the differences in the meanings of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat are not remarkable. They express material process of winning In a clause of material process, there is one participant, who is human, this is actor; the one that does something and process. This happens in intransitivity structure. In a clause of material, there are two participants, the Actor and the Goal then the process. This happens in transitivity structure.

In the view of Causative meaning, the English causative verbs are made of three main elements: causer – process – causee in which the process is realized by only one verb form: causing verb. However, in Vietnamese, the process of causative verbs encodes the two semantic parts: causing verb and resulting verb. For instance, process *crush* is realized by only one verb phrase causing verb - *crush* in English, however it encodes the two semantic parts: causing verb *nghiền* and resulting verb *nát* in Vietnamese.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

In order to help Vietnamese learners of English learn and use verb phrases expressing victory and defeat effectively, some suggestions for language learning and teaching are put forward:

5.2.1. To the Learners

When reading and translating the tennis commentaries, Vietnamese learners should be aware of the similarities and differences of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat between two languages in terms of syntactic and semantic features. This is very important for promoting positive transfer, and minimizing negative transfer. In detail, when making sentences, the learners should impose the use of their mother tongue to interpret the target one without paying much attention to the differences in syntactic features between the two languages. As a result, syntactic mistakes are unavoidable.

Then, understanding and distinguishing the meanings of each verb is necessary. Learners of English just look for the verb phrases without caring about their distinctive semantic features, which prevents them from expressing their ideas effectively. Especially in translating sentences with the occurrence of causativity, some important factors should be taken into consideration. The knowledge of English and Vietnamese causative constructions such as lexica and analytic constructions as well as the difference in encoding causative verbs such as “causative verb” and “resulting verb” should be emphasized. Therefore, students should be equipped with well-rounded knowledge in relation to the use of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat so that they can convey the greatest amount of comprehensive information to readers and select suitable English or Vietnamese translational equivalents in different contexts. They can decide the best words choice when translating to make the commentaries more interesting.

5.2.2. To the Teachers

The teachers show the similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features and supply learners with various kinds of exercises relating to these verb phrases expressing victory and defeat.

With the knowledge of syntactic features of verb phrases, the teachers should pay attention to teaching functional grammar so that they can understand not only the surface structure of a clause but also the meaning. This thesis also provides teachers the knowledge of verb phrases in terms of Functional Grammar which plays an important role in expressing victory and defeat. Enhancing international students' ability to express or assess their attitudes effectively provides them with the interpersonal linguistic resources they need to interact with the local community.

5.3. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study investigates some, not all, verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese tennis commentaries. That is, there are still other verbs which need studying. Besides, the thesis focuses on written language, so the language from other oral language from radio, television has not been studied sufficiently in this research.

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Within the scope of this thesis, we have dealt with some basic knowledge of verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese commentaries in terms of syntax and semantics. However, the following aspects should be taken into consideration for further researchers:

- An investigation into verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in English and Vietnamese commentaries in view of appraisal theory.
- An investigation into verb phrases expressing victory and defeat in tennis commentaries in view of force dynamic

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