

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIORAL CLAUSES DENOTING SMILING IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

Author: Phan Van Hoa, Tran Huu Phuc, Nguyen Thi Tu Trinh

The University of Danang, Viet Nam; hoauni@gmail.com

University of Foreign Language Studies, the University of Danang, Viet Nam; thphuc@ufl.udn.vn

Department of English, College of Transport II, Viet Nam; trinhntt@caodangvt2.edu.vn

Abstract:

In his framework of functional grammar, Halliday [4] determines three kinds of meaning called textual, interpersonal and experiential. The experiential meaning is expressed in 6 process types: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. Among them, smiling belongs to behavioural processes. Smiling not only serves as emotional expression functions but also has significant communicative and social ones. Smiling is considered as a universal emotion of human beings. However, the language used to express smiling could have dialects that differ subtly from each other. This paper is aimed at interpreting the linguistic expressions related to the meaning of smiling and describing the patterns of behavioural processes encoded in language. Based upon Halliday's [4] experiential meaning analysis and the data collected in eight short stories and novels, this paper focuses on highlighting: (1) patterns of smiling processes, (2) functions of participants in smiling processes and (3) social functions of smiling.

Key words: Functional grammar; Smiling; Behavioural clauses; Processes; Social functions.