

LINGUISTICS AND VIETNAMESE LINGUISTICS

A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF SOME VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES ABOUT CULTURE

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ABSTRACT: This study explores the experiential meaning reflected through transitivity resources in several key political speeches by the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, To Lam concerning the building and development of Vietnamese culture in a constantly changing global context. Guided by the principle that "Culture is the soul and essence of the nation," the authors emphasized culture's most profound position and role in shaping the nation's dignity, character, beauty, and eternal vitality. This research is based on the Functional Grammar framework developed by Hoang Van Van (2012), which is in turn based on M.A.K. Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) theory. It employs a descriptive content analysis method, a qualitative research approach, to identify the transitivity resources chosen and used in the speeches. The findings indicate that the authors used relational processes with the highest frequency, followed by material processes. This highlights the focus on building, preserving, and developing Vietnamese culture with its blend of traditional and modern elements, identity, and integration, thereby creating endogenous resources and mobilizing the power of culture. A significant number of circumstantial elements, particularly those indicating location and manner, were also employed in the discourse.

KEY WORDS: Political speech; systemic functional grammar; experiential meaning.

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1. Introduction

Language plays a crucial role in politics because it can directly influence how people think and what choices they make. As Halliday & Hasan (1985) noted, language enables us to form mental pictures of reality, helping us understand both our external experiences and internal thoughts. Essentially, language is a "resource for making meaning, and meaning resides in systemic patterns of choice" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 23). This means that, according to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, we create meaning not only through the words we choose (semantics) but also through our grammatical decisions (lexicogrammar) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 25). Over the decades, SFL has been continually refined and expanded, establishing itself as a crucial theoretical framework. It's widely applied in various research fields, including describing language, analyzing discourse, and conducting translation studies. Numerous scholars have contributed to and analyzed the SFL framework, with key publications from Halliday himself (1973, 1978, 1992, 1996), Halliday & Hasan (1985), Halliday & Matthiessen (1999), Martin (1992), Eggins (2004), and Hoang Van Van (2001a, 2001b, 2005, 2012), among others.

Functional grammar offers a descriptive approach focusing on functional word groups to create meaning. It proposes a new direction for grammatical text research based on three main metafunctions of language: ideational/experiential function, interpersonal function, and textual function. Consequently, texts have three constituent meanings: experiential meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning. Within this framework, experiential meaning is expressed through the transitivity system, which includes processes, participants, and circumstances.

As for the subject of study, political discourse encompasses all types of speeches that address the management methods of the State, political organizations, and political figures. It delves into issues of social governance, reflecting people's concerns about state administration. Many speeches by Party

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and State leaders at central and local conferences, especially those by General Secretary To Lam and Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, have significantly influenced various social issues, especially cultural matters. Two political discourses about culture provide a comprehensive guidance on developing culture as the mental foundation of the nation along with protecting traditional values.

This study focuses on exploring the experiential meanings reflected through the transitivity resources. A review of the existing literature reveals a notable gap in research examining experiential meaning in the works of Vietnamese political speeches. Therefore, this article is expected to fill this gap, and to a certain extent, will contribute to the investigation of how experiential meaning is realised in Vietnamese texts. It seeks to answer the following research question: 1/ What are the transitivity resources employed in selected political speeches?; 2/ How is experiential meaning expressed in the targeted text?

2. Theoretical framework

As one of the foundation theory on transitivity in Vietnamese clause, the book *An Experiential Grammar of the Vietnamese Clause* by Hoàng Văn Vân (2012) thoroughly explores the transitivity system in Vietnamese. Experiential meaning is construed in grammar through the system of transitivity, incorporating processes (actions, events, and states), participants (in the processes), and circumstances (in which the processes occur).

2.1. Processes

Hoang (2012) also identifies six types of processes in sentences, but he does not categorize them based on the primary or secondary elements like Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). Instead, he divides them into three branches: Doing, Projecting, and Being. Within this framework, Doing includes material processes and behavioral processes, Projecting encompasses mental and verbal processes, and Being covers relational and existential processes.

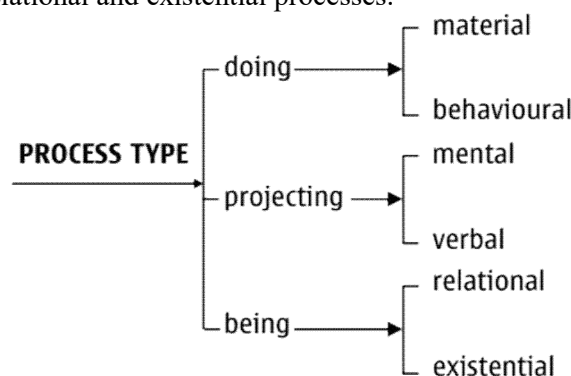


Figure 1. The System of Process Types in Vietnamese (Hoang, 2012, p. 214)

Material processes describe actions and events, focusing on what happens externally in the world. They involve an Actor (who performs the action) and often a Goal (what is affected), and sometimes a Recipient (who benefits).

Mental processes represent internal sensing, feeling, or thinking. Unlike material processes, they are internalized (Halliday et al., 2014), featuring a conscious Sensor and a Phenomenon (what is sensed). Relational processes express states of being or becoming, similar to traditional copular constructions. They appear in two forms: attributive, which assigns an attribute to a Carrier, and identifying, which equates a Token with a Value. Verbal processes typically involve saying. The main participant is the Sayer, potentially including a Receiver (addressee) or a Target. This category extends beyond literal speech to include various forms of communication, even non-verbal ones like showing or indicating. Behavioral processes act as a hybrid, blending features of material, mental, and verbal processes. They cover physiological actions (e.g., shivering, coughing) and social actions (e.g., dancing, gossiping), with the participant simply termed the Behavior.

Existential processes indicate existence, resembling relational clauses but distinguished by having only one participant: the Existent.

2.2. Participants

According to Halliday (1994), participant is “the person, creature, object, institution or abstraction that is involved in a process. In experiential meaning, participants are incorporated in the six processes, as shown in table 1.

Table 1. *Process Types, Their Category of Meaning and Participants (Halliday, 1994, p.143)*

Process type	Meaning	Participants (directly involved)	Participants (obliquely involved)
Material Action Event	‘doing’ ‘doing’ ‘happening’	Actor, Goal	Recipient, Client, Scope, Initiator, Attribute
Behavioral	‘behaving’	Behaver	Behaviour
Mental: Perception Cognition Desiration Emotion	‘sensing’ ‘seeing’ ‘thinking’ ‘wanting’ ‘feeling’	Senser, Phenomenon	Inducer
Verbal	‘saying’	Sayer, Target	Receiver, Verbiage
Relational Attribution Idenfication	‘being’ ‘attributing’ ‘identifying’	Carrier, Attribute Token, Value	Attributor; Beneficiary Assigner
Existential		Existent	

Hoang Van Van (2012) defines participants by dividing them into two groups: : those that are inherent in the process and those that are not they bring about the occurrence of the process or mediate its occurrence. Participants are typically realised by nominal groups. In different types of processes, there are a number of ways in which a participant may take part in a process; it may act out the process; it may sense through it; it may receive through or benefit from it; it may be affected by it and so on.

2.3. Circumstances

In addition to the essential functions such as Agent and Action, additional elements that explain the material process in relation to place, time, method, etc., are not obligatory in process category. Hoang (2012) suggested eight types of such explanatory elements, which include scope, position, method, reason, co-occurrence, material, function and attitude.

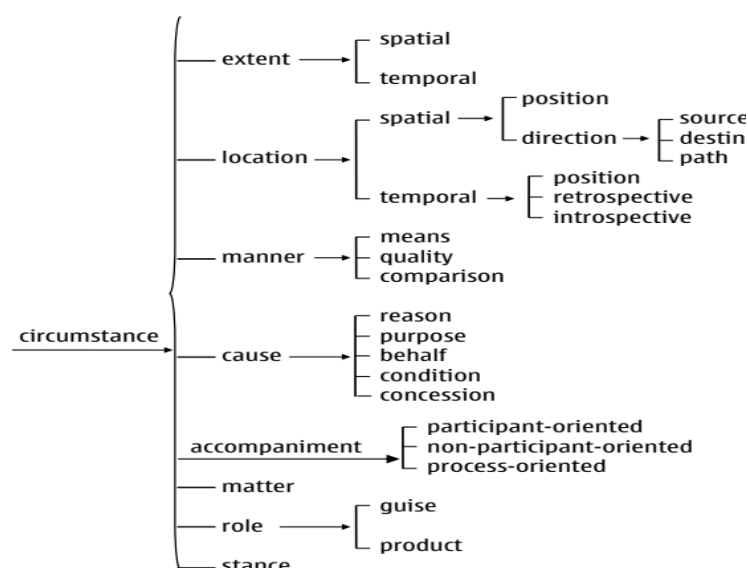


Figure 2. Circumstantial Transitivity in Vietnamese (Hoang, 2012, p.320)

2.4. Transitivity studies in political speeches

Numerous researchers have utilized the transitivity framework to analyze literary texts and discourses from diverse perspectives across different regions. Most studies focus on political speeches delivered by influential country leaders or American presidential candidates.

Several studies highlight the application of Halliday's transitivity system in analyzing political discourse. From a functional perspective, Wang (2010), examines the language used in Barack Obama's political discourses. The findings indicate that Obama's language is straightforward and informal, effectively reducing the distance between him and his audience. The transitivity analysis revealed that material processes, which involve actions, are predominant in his speeches. Similar findings were reported in Yujie and Fengjie's (2018) study in their examination of the linguistic features of American President Donald Trump's Inaugural Address. They applied the transitivity system and analyzed the data quantitatively. They found out that the most commonly used process was the material one, followed by the relational and mental processes. The researchers had concluded that presidents mostly use the material process to highlight the government's actions and represent the experience of doing.

In other contexts, researchers have applied transitivity analysis to understand the underlying intentions in political rhetoric. Zhao and Zhang (2017) utilized both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the functions of the six process types in Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural address, uncovering the speech's true purpose. Furthermore, Zhao and Li (2018) investigated David Cameron's speech on retaining Scotland within the transitivity framework, using similar methods to explore process distribution and functions. Their research not only shed light on UK history but also offered insights into delivering effective speeches.

3. Data collection and analysis

This study employed content analysis method, a systematic, reproducible technique where certain words in a text are summarized with smaller content categories using codes according to certain rules" (Buyukozturk et al., 2013, p.250). "The basic process in content analysis is to group similar data under certain concepts and themes and to interpret them in a comprehensible manner" (Yildirim & Simsek, 2011, p.227). In other words, content analysis assists the researcher to examine and evaluate the literature in a certain scientific field.

This research aimed to analyze the experiential meaning, focusing on clause simplexes as the primary unit of analysis. A clause simplex, consisting of a subject, a finite verb, and sometimes a predicate, is considered the highest grammatical unit because it encapsulates all three metafunctions of language (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Hoang, 2012). This study analyzed 387 clause simplexes, excluding clause complexes which relate to the logical organization of information.

All clause simplexes were from political discourses about culture written by the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and General Secretary To Lam with 11949 words in 251 sentences. The first speech namely “Quyết tâm chấn hưng và xây dựng thành công một nền văn hoá Việt Nam tiên tiến, đậm đà bản sắc dân tộc” (Determined to revitalize and successfully build an advanced Vietnamese culture rich in national identity) was delivered at the National Conference on Culture on November 24th 2021, published in the book “Some theoretical and practical issues regarding Socialism and the path to Socialism”. (Speech 1). The second one was delivered by Mr. Lam at the National Meeting with Vietnamese Artists on 30th December 2024, published in Government News Agency (Speech 2).

The research followed a structured approach. The researcher first thoroughly read the speech to grasp its core content. Then, each clause simplex (identified by a subject, finite verb, and predicate components) was separated using double vertical strokes (/ /). Each identified clause simplex was categorized into one of the six process types within the transitivity system: material, behavioral, mental, verbal, relational, and existential. The types and quantities of associated circumstances were also analyzed. Numbered examples (e.g., [1], [2]) were provided for clarity. The frequency of each process type was counted and visualized in a chart. The analysis followed Burton's (1982) three steps: (1) isolate processes and identify the participants involved; (2) determine the type of each process and the participants engaged in it and (3) verify who or what is affected by each process.

Each circumstance was also listed, categorized according to Hoang (2012), and their frequencies were graphed to aid in the discussion of meaning. These systematic steps allowed for the comprehensive analysis of transitivity patterns and the subsequent drawing of conclusions regarding the experiential meaning conveyed in the text.

4. Findings and discussion

To answer the first research question concerning the transitivity resources employed, this section presents an analysis of the selected processes, participants, and circumstances, supported by examples from the texts. It then elaborates on how these linguistic choices realize experiential meaning within the targeted speeches.

4.1. Processes

The six types of processes belong to the transitivity system, they realise experiential meanings at the semantic level. Based on Hoang Van Van (2012), the following chart and table present the number and the percentages of process types examined from two speeches about cultural sector by General Secretary To Lam and the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

Table 2. Number of processes found in the text

Types of process	Number of process found in the text
Relational process	52
Material process	44
Mental process	15
Verbal process	6
Existential	4
Behavioral process	1

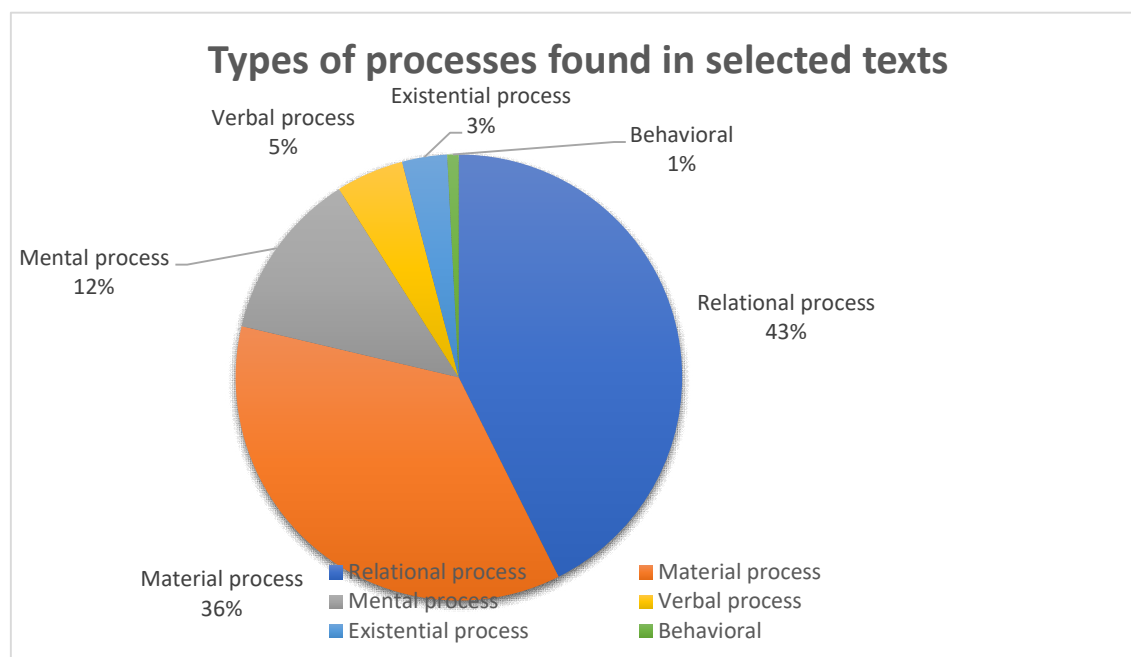


Figure 3. *Types of processes found in selected texts*

(i) Relational process:

The most frequent process type was the Relational process with 43%. In some cases, this type of process is the most preferred selection, especially in commencement address, as in the study of Barack Obama's speech to class of 2020 by Do & Nguyen (2023). It reveals that the most common type and mode of the relational process addressed to high school graduates, the target audience, were intensive and attributive respectively. In some research (Fengjie, 2018; Mirallas & Rius, 2012; Yujie & Fengjie, 2018), this process was also among the top three selection. In both targeted speeches in this research, it includes two subtypes: intensive identifying and intensive ascriptive. Intensive identifying was primarily expressed through the verb "là" (to be). This was used to define, describe, and evaluate concepts of culture, the role of the Party, and historical events before the leaders offered detailed instructions on how to specifically protect and develop it.

(1) Văn hoá	là	hồn cốt của Dân tộc (Speech 1)
Culture	Is	The essence of the nation
Token/Identified	Process: relational	Value/Identifier

(2) “*Nền văn hoá mà chúng ta xây dựng là nền văn hoá tiên tiến, đậm đà bản sắc dân tộc với nội dung cốt lõi là độc lập dân tộc và chủ nghĩa xã hội.*” (Speech 1) *(The culture we are building is an advanced culture, rich in national identity, with the core content being national independence and socialism.)*

As in the second subtype, intensive ascriptive, the entity (carrier) is assigned some attribute that is realized in an adjective or nominal group. When highlighting the challenges that cultural sector are facing, both leaders employed negative adjectives to give attributes to Carrier. The high concentration of negative adjectives in a single clause like in this following example underscored the serious issues currently facing artists and cultural governing bodies.

(3) *Công tác đào tạo, bồi dưỡng đội ngũ văn nghệ sĩ còn bất cập, yếu kém, hụt hẫng, không đồng đều... một số hội văn học, nghệ thuật chậm đổi mới nội dung và phương thức hoạt động, lúng túng trong việc tập hợp, phối hợp và phát huy tiềm năng của đội ngũ văn nghệ sĩ.* (Speech 1) *(The training*

and nurturing of artists are still inadequate, weak, fragmented, and uneven. Some literary and artistic associations are slow to innovate their content and methods of operation, struggling to gather, coordinate, and maximize the potential of their artists.

(4) Một số văn nghệ sĩ còn thụ động, thiếu khát vọng, chưa dẫn thân, thậm chí tha hóa về tư tưởng chính trị, có tư duy lệch lạc. (Speech 2) (Some artists are still passive, lacking aspiration, not daring to commit, and even degenerating in political thought, having misguided perspectives.)

Relational process also appeared in the latter part of the selected speeches. Before assigning specific tasks for artists, writers, officers in cultural sector, the leaders reiterated the key objectives they were expected to accomplish in their work. This serves as both motivation and guidance for artists to endeavor to produce works suitable for the requirements of the times.

(5) “Sứ mệnh cao cả nhất của đội ngũ văn nghệ sĩ cách mạng là kiến tạo nhân cách văn hóa, xây dựng con người xã hội chủ nghĩa”. (Speech 2) (The highest mission of revolutionary artists and writers is to create cultural character and build socialist human beings.)

(6) Mục tiêu của chúng ta là văn học nghệ thuật, văn hóa phải phục vụ nhân dân. (Speech 2) (Our goal is for literature, art, and culture to serve the people, who have the right to enjoy them.)

(ii) Material process:

The analysis of the text reveals that *Material processes* are the second most frequently used, appearing 44 times and making up 36% of all processes. This prevalence is expected because Material processes describe actions and events, which is particularly relevant given that the speeches were delivered at national cultural conferences. During these events, the Party's highest leader offered guidance and direction for future initiatives.

The consistent use of Material processes suggests that the speaker intends to emphasize actions. This outcome aligns with previous studies, such as those by Wang (2010) on Barack Obama's speeches and Shi & Gu (2022) about British Queen's speeches. Similarly, studies of speeches by other prominent political figures like David Cameron and Donald Trump have shown a preference for Material processes (Fengjie, 2018; Yujie & Fengjie, 2018). This pattern indicates that this type of process was commonly employed in political discourse, particularly during inaugural ceremonies or significant public events related to major political decisions, focusing on actions to be taken.

This type of process was employed throughout the speeches with different purposes. Both speeches were commenced with a comprehensive review of Vietnamese government's policy towards culture since the birth of the country. The following statement was quoted from President Ho Chi Minh as the prime orientation for the development of cultural factor.

(7) Văn hoá	phải soi	đường	cho quốc dân đi. (Speech 1)
Culture	must light	the way	for the nation to follow
Actor	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance

Material process was also used to highlight the achievements of government and Vietnamese people in preserving the beauty of traditional cultural values.

(8) Nhiều giá trị văn hoá truyền thống và di sản văn hoá của dân tộc	được kế thừa, bảo tồn và phát triển. (Speech 2)
Many traditional cultural values and national cultural heritages	have been inherited, preserved, and developed
Actor	Process: Material 1, Material 2, Material 3

Most noteworthy, both leaders of the Party stressed the important guidance for future growth of cultural sector in the challenges of ever-changing world.

(9) “Văn hóa dân tộc và con người mới phải được xây dựng, phát triển phù hợp với thời đại, với mục tiêu chiến lược phát triển mới của đất nước.” (Speech 1) (National culture and the new person must be built and developed in accordance with the new era and the country's new strategic development goals.)

(10) “Chỉ khi nghệ thuật phản ánh hiện thực chân thực đúng đắn, nghệ thuật mới sinh sôi và có như vậy nghệ sĩ, nghệ thuật mới có công chúng, đi được vào lòng công chúng, sống được với thời gian.” (Speech 2) (Only when art accurately and truthfully reflects reality can it flourish. In doing so, artists and art will find an audience, resonate with the public, stand the test of time.)

A significant portion of the material processes appeared in the latter part of the speeches. This is where the leaders laid out a clear vision for the future development of the cultural sector. Both leaders stressed the crucial role of the Parliament, Government bodies, and artists and writers in fostering the growth of Vietnamese culture.

(11) “Quốc hội, Chính phủ, các ban của Đảng, các cơ quan liên quan cần phối hợp tháo gỡ những nút thắt về pháp luật, cơ chế, chính sách, ngân sách, tài chính, đầu tư,... tạo nguồn lực, tạo không gian cho văn nghệ sĩ tự do sáng tạo, sáng tác.” (Speech 2) (The National Assembly, the Government, Party committees, and relevant agencies need to coordinate to remove bottlenecks in legislation, mechanisms, policies, budgets, finances, and investment, thereby creating resources and space for artists to freely create.)

(iii) Mental process:

With 6 instances, accounting for 5%, mental process was the fourth most frequently chosen type of process with the dominance of cognitive verbs. This findings show certain differences compared to high frequency of mental process in Farrah K. et al 's study (2022) when examining Hillary Clinton's debate with Trump. Yujie &Fengjie (2018) also concluded that Trump's favor of mental process when he wanted to recover the audience's confidence and hope for better future in his inaugural address.

In both speeches, the verbs realizing this process are *nhấn mạnh, coi trọng, đề cao, khẳng định* (emphasize, value, promote, assert) or *nhận thức* (be aware of). Those cognitive verbs were used throughout the speeches to stress the consistence in ideology and the Party's guiding and developing the cultural sector in the past and the present.

(12) Đảng ta	luôn luôn	coi trọng	vai trò của văn hoá	hết sức	quan tâm	đến công tác xây dựng văn hoá.
Our Party	has always	valued	the role of culture	and paid attention to	great	cultural development
Senser	Circumstance: manner	Process: Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance: manner	Process: Mental	Circumstance:

(13) “Đảng ta đã nhấn mạnh đến công tác phát triển nền văn nghệ, báo chí, xuất bản, truyền thanh, điện ảnh, thư viện, bảo tồn bảo tàng, nâng cao tính tư tưởng, tính chiến đấu, tính quần chúng của các công việc đó.” (Speech 2) (Our Party has emphasized the development of literature and arts, journalism, publishing, radio, cinema, libraries, and the preservation of museums, enhancing the ideological, combative, and popular nature of these activities.)

Emotive verbs were also employed to express the feelings of audience, readers when their hearts are touched by artistic works. However, due to the formality of the speeches, those types of verbs were not in favor.

(14) “Chúng ta xúc động, tự hào trước những tác phẩm kết tinh tài năng, tâm huyết, trách nhiệm, tận tụy, dần thân của các thế hệ văn nghệ sĩ; những tác phẩm cổ vũ, khích lệ toàn dân, toàn quân.” (Speech 2) (We are moved and proud of the works that crystallize the talent, passion, responsibility, dedication, and commitment of generations of artists; works that have encouraged the entire people and army)

(iv) Verbal process:

The next selection of process belongs to Verbal process. Some verbs were involved in Verbal process including *gửi lời chào* (send greetings), *chúc* (wish) in the introductory parts as formal greetings and some verbs such as *căn dặn* (advise) or *nói* (say) in the following example:

(15) Với tất cả sự khiêm tốn,	chúng ta	vẫn có thể nói rằng	Đất nước ta chưa bao giờ có được cơ đồ, tiềm lực, vị thế và uy tín quốc tế như ngày nay.
With all due humility,	we	can still say	Our country has never had the fortune, potential, position, and international prestige that it does today
Circumstance: manner	Sayer	Process: verbal	Process: existential

(16) Bác Hồ đã từng căn dặn: “Để làm tròn nhiệm vụ cao quý của mình, văn nghệ sĩ cần phải rèn luyện đạo đức cách mạng...”. (Uncle Ho once advised: “To fulfill their noble mission, artists must cultivate revolutionary ethics, enhance their spirit of serving the people, ”)

(v) Existential process:

This was not among the most frequently employed type but it still plays a crucial role in defining the context in which the speech was delivered. This process is realised by some verbs like “có”, “còn” (remain)

(17) “Việc thể chế hoá và tổ chức thực hiện đường lối văn hoá của Đảng còn thiếu đồng bộ, quyết liệt, hiệu quả.” (The institutionalization and implementation of the Party's cultural guidelines still lack synchronicity, decisiveness, and effectiveness.)

(vi) Behavioural process :

This one was least used in political texts. In this context, the speakers, our General Secretary To Lam and the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, formally delivered the remarks on behalf of the Party to provide comprehensive guidance to the cultural sector, artists, writers and officers. Consequently, common verbs related to physiological and psychological behavior such as “khóc” (cry), “cười” (smile), or “thở” (breathe), appeared infrequently. This limited use of behavioral processes aligns with findings from studies by Wang (2010), Zhao, M., & Zhang, Y. (2017) .

4.2. Participants

The Participants are mainly *chúng ta, tôi, văn hoá, nhân dân* (we, I, culture, and the people,) which shows a focus on human subjects and abstract concepts, fitting for a speech about culture. To be more specific, their roles as participants are as follows:

Table 3. Participant functions of transitivity analysis

Participant	Frequency of occurrence	Percentage
Relational process		
Carrier	36	15,7%
Attribute	36	15,7%
Token	16	7,0%
Value	16	7,0%
Attributor		
Assigner		
Beneficiary		

Material process		
Actor	44	19,1%
Goal	42	18,3%
Recipient		
Client		
Initiator		
Scope		
Mental process		
Senser	15	6,5%
Phenomenon	12	5,2%
Verbal process		
Sayer	6	2,6%
Target	2	0,9%
Receiver		
Verbiage		
Behavioral process	2	0,9%
Existential process		
Existent	3	1,3%

The table details the frequency and percentage of various participant roles across different processes. Overall, participants in Relational Processes demonstrate the highest frequencies. Carrier and Attribute, which each account for 15.7% of occurrences with 36 instances. Token and Value with 16 instances each make up 7.0%.

(18) Văn hoá là những hoạt động tinh thần của một xã hội, gồm có những lĩnh vực: giáo dục, khoa học, văn học, nghệ thuật, đạo đức. (Speech 2) (Culture encompasses the spiritual activities of a society, including fields such as education, science, literature, art, and ethics.)

Next, participants in Material Processes also show significant, albeit lower, frequencies. Goal is the most frequent participant in this category with 44 occurrences (19.1%), followed by Actor with 42 occurrences (18.3%).

(19) Việt Nam ..., trải qua không biết bao nhiêu sự biến đổi, thăng trầm do thiên nhiên và con người gây ra, đã tích lũy, tạo ra và phát huy được nhiều giá trị, bản sắc văn hoá riêng của Dân tộc, làm nên hồn cốt của Dân tộc. (Speech 1) (Vietnam has accumulated, created, and promoted many unique cultural values and identities, forming the very soul of the nation.)

Mental Processes feature Senser as the most common participant at 6.5% (15 occurrences), while Phenomenon occurs less frequently at 5.2% (12 occurrences). Participants in Verbal and Behavioral Processes are considerably less frequent. Sayer in Verbal Processes accounts for 3.1% (6 occurrences), and Verbiage for nearly 1% (2 occurrences). Behavioral Process itself is listed with 3 occurrences, or 1.3%.

Finally, the Existential Process has the lowest reported frequency, with Existent appearing only once, representing 0.5% of the total.

4.3. Circumstances

Table 4. Types of circumstances

Circumstantial elements	Number of frequency	Percentage
Location (Temporal/Spatial)	32	43.2%
Manner (Means/Quality/Comparison)	16	21.6%
Matter	9	12.2%
Cause (Reason/Purpose/Condition)	8	10.8%
Role	5	6.8%
Accompaniment	4	5.4%

The table, "Types of circumstances," provides a breakdown of various circumstantial elements, illustrating their frequency and percentage of occurrence. Location (Temporal/Spatial) is by far the most dominant circumstantial element, accounting for 43.2% of occurrences with 32 instances. This is more than double the frequency of the next most common type. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) defines the circumstance of location and describes the process of the location, namely the place where the incident takes place both in space and time. In both speeches, Circumstance of Location marked the significant events and periods in which the role of culture was always emphasized.

(20) *Từ ngày thành lập đến nay, Đảng ta luôn luôn coi trọng vai trò của văn hoá và hết sức quan tâm đến công tác xây dựng văn hoá trong sự nghiệp đấu tranh giải phóng dân tộc và xây dựng đất nước, nhất là trong thời kỳ quá độ lên chủ nghĩa xã hội.* (Since its establishment, our Party has always valued the role of culture and paid great attention to cultural development in the cause of national liberation and construction, especially during the transition period to socialism.)

Manner (Means/Quality/Comparison) ranks as the second most frequent circumstantial element, appearing 16 times and representing 21.6% of the total. Circumstances of Manner are often realized by adverbial phrases like *mạnh mẽ, hết sức, đặc biệt..* (strongly, extremely, particularly) to emphasize the determination of the government in promoting cultural sector.

(21) *Đổi mới mạnh mẽ phương thức lãnh đạo, quản lý, tạo mọi điều kiện để văn nghệ sĩ thâm nhập sâu rộng thực tế sôi động của đất nước, đồng hành, gắn bó máu thịt với công cuộc lao động sáng tạo của nhân dân ta.* (Strongly innovate leadership and management methods, creating all conditions for artists to deeply immerse themselves in the vibrant reality of the country, to accompany and intimately connect with the creative labor of our people).

Following these, Matter and Cause (Reason/Purpose/Condition) exhibit moderate frequencies. Matter accounts for 12.2% (9 occurrences), while Cause is slightly less frequent at 10.8% (8 occurrences). It can be seen that all tasks for cultural sector were stated clearly with clear objectives, which empowered writers and artists to fully grasp the significance of their assigned mission.

(22) *Những quan điểm và tư tưởng chỉ đạo của Đảng trong Văn kiện quan trọng này đã tạo ra một luồng sinh khí mới để tập hợp đôi ngũ trí thức, văn nghệ sĩ, tập hợp nhân dân phát huy vai trò của văn hoá, thống nhất về nhân thức, tư tưởng và tổ chức, khơi dậy khát vọng của dân tộc.* (Speech 1) (The Party's viewpoints and guiding principles in this important document have created a new vitality to rally the contingent of intellectuals and artists, and to gather the people to promote the role of culture, unify awareness, ideology, and organization, and arouse the nation's aspirations)

The remaining circumstantial elements occur with considerably lower frequencies. Role is present 5 times, making up 6.8% of the total. The least frequent element is Accompaniment, with only 4 occurrences, representing 5.4%.

(23) *Văn hoá phải được đặt ngang hàng với kinh tế, chính trị, xã hội.* (Speech 1) (Culture must be given the same importance as economics, politics, and society.)

5. Conclusion

This paper investigates how experiential meaning is conveyed in two political speeches given by the late General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and General Secretary To Lam about cultural sector. The analysis utilizes Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), specifically the frameworks developed by Hoang (2012). Quantitative analysis reveals that SFG's transitivity system is an effective tool for both encoding and decoding this type of political public speech. The study's main conclusions are summarized as follows:

- Regarding processes: The text predominantly uses relational processes (43%) to define, describe, and evaluate concepts of culture, the role of the Party, and historical events. This is consistent with the nature of a theoretical and summative speech. Material processes (36%) are used to narrate actions and events in the history of the nation's struggle and construction.
- Regarding participants: The prevalence of participants in relational processes (Carrier/Identified and Attribute/Identifier) once again affirms the definitional and descriptive nature of the text. Participants in material processes, such as Goal and Actor, also appear frequently, reflecting the text's reference to the specific actions of the Party, the people, and cultural forces.
- Regarding circumstances: The circumstance of Location (including both temporal and spatial) accounts for the highest proportion (43.2%), indicating a focus on the historical and spatial context in which events unfold. The circumstance of Manner (21.6%) is also used extensively to describe the method and quality of actions and events.

Upon finishing the research, several limitations became apparent. Firstly, a larger sample size would yield more thorough and convincing results. Secondly, although the study extensively examined the transitivity features of political speech, it only briefly touched upon the pragmatic functions of various transitivity types.

By examining the main processes in a text, audiences can better grasp its underlying ideas and the author's linguistic choices. Furthermore, teachers can foster students' awareness and appreciation of the text's functions. Integrating transitivity analysis into English language teaching not only boosts students' reading comprehension and their understanding of the world but also prompts them to delve into the deeper meanings of what is being said.

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**Phân tích một số diễn văn chính trị về văn hoá
theo quan điểm chức năng hệ thống**

Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu này tập trung khai thác nghĩa trải nghiệm phản ánh qua các nguồn lực chuyển tác trong một số diễn văn chính trị quan trọng của cố Tổng Bí thư Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam Nguyễn Phú Trọng và Tổng Bí thư Tô Lâm về xây dựng và phát triển nền văn hoá Việt Nam trong bối cảnh biến động không ngừng của thế giới. Với quan điểm chỉ đạo “Văn hoá là hồn cốt dân tộc”, các nhà lãnh đạo đã nhấn mạnh vị trí, vai trò sâu thẳm nhất của văn hóa, tạo nên phẩm giá, bản lĩnh, vẻ đẹp, sức sống vĩnh hằng của dân tộc. Nghiên cứu này dựa trên khung Ngữ pháp chức năng do Hoàng Văn Vân (2012) phát triển dựa trên lý thuyết ngữ pháp chức năng hệ thống (Systemic Functional Grammar) của M.A.K. Halliday (1994), sử dụng phương pháp phân tích miêu tả nội dung, một phương pháp nghiên cứu định tính để chỉ ra các nguồn lực chuyển tác được lựa chọn sử dụng trong bài. Kết quả cho thấy người viết đã sử dụng các quá trình quan hệ với tần suất cao nhất, sau đó là quá trình vật chất làm nổi bật định hướng về xây dựng, giữ gìn và phát triển nền văn hóa Việt Nam với các yếu tố truyền thống và hiện đại, bản sắc và hội nhập, tạo nguồn lực nội sinh và huy động sức mạnh của văn hóa. Một lượng lớn chu cảnh, đặc biệt là chu cảnh chỉ nơi chốn và phong cách cũng được sử dụng trong diễn văn.

Từ khoá: Diễn văn chính trị; ngữ pháp chức năng hệ thống; nghĩa trải nghiệm.