



Research Article

A COGNITIVE INVESTIGATION INTO EXPRESSIONS OF PATH MOTION IN VIETNAMESE

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ABSTRACT

The paper aims to investigate how Vietnamese people express motion by using path verbs. This paper is conducted on the theory of lexicalization patterns which is related to the conflation of semantic components into linguistic units. The data are the expressions of motion verbs and spatial prepositions which were taken from 12 Vietnamese stories and three novels in the 20th century onward. The result of this paper presents several lexicalization patterns of semantic components conflated into the path verbs and the spatial prepositions. Moreover, this paper takes into account for construction grammar of lexical expressions of path motion in Vietnamese, which refers to speakers' knowledge of motion utilized to express motion.

Keywords: Path motion, Lexicalization patterns, Conflation and Lexical expression.

Introduction

Cognitive linguistics is an approach to the language study viewing linguistic knowledge as part of general cognition and thinking; linguistic behavior is not separated from other general cognitive abilities allowing mental processes of *reasoning*, *memory*, *attention* and *learning*, but understood as an integral part of it. Cognitive linguistics has had a profound impact on the study of language in terms of both semantics and grammar from the 1980s onward. It is holding the evidence that language is learned and processed much in the same way as other information about the world, and that the same cognitive processes are involved in language and other forms of thinking (Taylor and Littlemore, 2014). As a result, Evans and Green (2006) concludes that to study language from this perspective is to study patterns of conceptualization. That is, language provides windows into cognitive functions and insights into the nature, structure, and organization of thoughts and ideas. Motion is a domain in the language which has been particularly attractive since it has been said to be one of the primary experiential domains in human life and bound to be lexicalized in all languages. For this reason, an investigation into motion from the perspective of cognitive linguistics is indispensable, which takes into account the relationship between language and thought. This will shed light on the role of thought in shaping language. More importantly, this analysis will help to expound different explanations of motion from cultural aspects. One of the most dominant works associated with the field is Talmy's (1985) binary typology. In this research, Talmy delved into the relationship between surface forms and semantic components. More precisely, he examined the way of how many semantic components (e.g., *Figure*, *Ground*, *Manner*, *Motion*, *Path* and *Cause*) are lexicalized into different surface forms (e.g., path verbs) in motion events. Talmy explains that the basic motion event consists of one object (the Figure) moving or located with respect to another object (the Ground). Besides Figure and Ground, It is analyzed to consist of more components which are Path and Motion. Aske (1989:1) illustrates these semantic components in motion events in the following diagram.

He also termed this process as lexicalization, which means the ways experience is rendered into languages via the semantic content of lexical items that are used to express experiential categories (Talmy, 1985). He concluded that the relationship between surface forms and semantic components is not one-to-one. That is, one semantic component could be lexicalized into more than one surface forms and vice versa. Based on Talmy's theory of lexicalization patterns, two semantic components (*Motion* and *Path*) were chosen to investigate in the current paper in hope of shedding light on the ways how Vietnamese people express motion by examining the lexicalization of the two semantic components of Motion and Manner into the path verbs.

Theoretical background

Talmy's theory of lexicalization patterns

Talmy (2000) delves into the exploration of a systematic relationship between semantic components and linguistic forms, in other words, into the process of lexicalization. Talmy (2000b) posits that lexicalization is involved where a particular meaning component is found to be in regular association with a particular morpheme. Talmy shows that there are two directions which can be adopted for investigating the meaning and linguistic form relations. One direction is to keep constant a selected surface or linguistic entity, and then observe which semantic entities are variously expressed by it. Another direction is to hold particular semantic entities constant, then observe the surface or linguistic entities in which it can appear. Talmy (1985, 2000) proposes the three-way typology in which he points out that three pairs of semantic components conflated into the motion verbs including *Motion + Manner*, *Motion + Cause* and *Motion + Path*. As mentioned in the aims of the research, only the last pair was analyzed in this paper.

Talmy's typology of path motion

A range of languages (e.g., Romance languages, Japanese, Korean) consist of verbs expressing Motion along with various Paths. In

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reality, though English also has verbs which incorporate Path such as *arrive*, *approach*, *cross*, *ascend*, *circle*, *descend*, *enter*, *exit*, *follow*, *join*, *pass*, *rise*, *return*, etc, this lexicalization pattern is not characteristic because these verbs are historic borrowings from Romance languages. Talmy (2000b) adds that this conflation pattern (Motion and Path) hardly expands to conflation of location with site, which is “Be-on”, “Be-under”, etc, despite the fact that English consists of some incidental cases of such conflation such as *surround* (be around), *top* (be atop), *flank* (be beside), *adjoin* (be next to), *span* (be from one side to the other) and *line* (be in line).

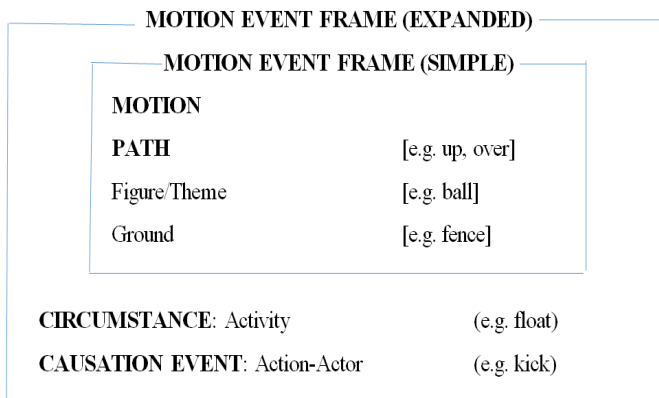


Figure 1. A frame of motion events

More importantly, apart from other typologies, the path motion typology is a construction containing agentive as in (1a) and non-agentive verbs as in (1b).

- (1) a. The bottle entered the case.
b. I enter the house.

Typology of path motion in Vietnamese

Before examining this typology in Vietnamese, it is crucial to comprehend the path verbs which are called a group of the directed verbs (Nguyễn Lai, 2001). According to Nguyễn Lai, there are 4 pairs of the path verbs in Vietnamese, which are grouped into opposite-direction pairs such as VÀO- RA (enter- exit), LÊN- XUỐNG (ascend-descend), QUA-LAI (cross- return) and TỚI-LUI (arrive- return). Like path motion in English, the path verbs in this construction can be both agentive as in (2a) and non-agentive as in (2b).

- (2) a. Bao nhiêu gánh xiếc **tới** Huế?
How many circuses **went to** Hue?
b. Một lúc sau, Mực **lại** gần tôi.
A moment later, Muc **returned** next to me.

However, the group of words in Vietnamese have diverse uses in terms of directions. First, they can simultaneously encode both Motion and Path as mentioned in Talmy's typology when they are main verbs in constructions. The verb like “vào” (*enter*) in (3) denotes two semantic components, which are Motion and Path. First, the verb “vào” depicts that Figure (*Mùng*) moves from one place to another. Second, it denotes that the Figure moves from the outside to the inside.

- (3) Mừng **vào** phòng làm việc.
Mung **entered** the room.

Directions of the path verbs in Vietnamese: Nguyen Lai (2001:49) explains that the path verbs in Vietnamese denote three various directions as follows:

a. *Directions of space:* Humans' interactions associated with the external world generally give rise to spatial perception which has symmetrical features, namely *lên* (ascend) # *xuống* (descend) and *ra* (exit) # *vào* (enter).

b. *Directions of time:* The directions of time are concerned with the temporal perception based on the alternation of entities. When expressing the directions of time, the path verbs must follow other verbs such as *gọi* (spur), *làm* (work) or *tim* (find), etc. These directions of time often refer to the onset of action as in (4a), the process of action as (4b) and the result of action as (4c).

- (4) a. Gọi *lên* (spur)
b. Làm *tới* (work until)
c. Tim *ra* (find out)
c/ *Directions of psychology*

The directions of psychology refer to humans' reactions in terms of thinking, feeling, or emotion to the changes of entities. These directions normally denote three dimensions of directions, which are the positive dimension, neutral dimension and negative dimension. The first dimension expresses the trend of entities which are becoming better, and more particularly, the group of the path verbs accompanies descriptive adjective such as *đẹp ra* (become more beautiful) and *khỏe ra* (become healthier). The second one tends to express something which becomes worse, namely *nghèo đi* (become poorer) and *xấu đi* (become worse). Also, the last dimension is the balance of the two aforementioned ones such as *ốm lại* (become sick again) and *khỏe lại* (become healthy again).

Cultural relationship of the Figure and Ground in Vietnamese:

Besides the spatial relation, the rapport between the Figure and the Ground in Vietnamese analyzed in this section is a cultural relationship, which will be investigated on the basis of semantic features of world image and cognitive maps (Ly Toan Thang, 2005). With regard to world image, semantic properties of each language reflect different ways in which world image of language is conceptualized in a given cultural community. Thus, there will be a wide range of different expressions to denote motion in human languages in terms of cultural traits such as anthropological characteristics and social conditions. Based on these features of world image of language, Ly Toan Thang (2005: 77-92) determined some typical relations between the Figure and the Ground in motion events as follows:

a. *On – Under relation:* This relation is defined by the spatial relationship between the Figure and the Ground. If there is no dependency between two these semantic components; that is, the Figure is on a par with the Ground with respect to location, the Figure's motion towards the Ground will be *SANG* (cross) as in (5).

- (5) Lượm **sang** tận chợ Bến Ngự.
Luong **crossed** Ben Ngu market.

In contrast, when the Figure moves from a higher location to a lower location and vice versa, the spatial relation will be contingent upon the Figure's direction of motion, which is *LÊN* or *XUỐNG* as in (6).

- (6) a. Mời chú em **lên** xe!
Invite you to get on the car!
- b. Cháu chưa kịp **xuống** đò thì tụi hấn ập tới.
I had no sooner **descended** the boat than they rushed
- b. *In – Out relation*

There is a great difference in expressing this relation in English and Vietnamese. While English speakers only examine motion at the endpoint, Vietnamese speakers examine the whole process of moving from the starting to endpoint. Investigating directions of the verb ENTER in English and RA in Vietnamese will shed light on this statement. When the English say ENTER *the scene*, they only pay specific attention to the endpoint; that is, at the endpoint, the Ground *the scene* is considered to be a container with the surrounding curtains, and the Figure moves from a spacious place to a constrained place. In contrast, Vietnamese speakers use the verb RA *the scene* in this situation just because they posit that they conceptualize the whole process of moving from the starting point (backward and dark area) to the endpoint frontward and light area). Therefore, the verb RA is used to denote that the Figure is moving from a dark and small place to a bigger and lighter place. Based on this relation, Ly ToanThang (2005:79) arrange these locations from narrowness to wideness.

House < Yard < Garden < Alley < Road < Field < Dyke < Plain

Therefore, the verb VÀO is used to express motion moving into the house as in (7a) and ra is used to express motion moving to larger locations such as *rasân*(yard), *vròn*(garden), *ngõ*(gate), *đường*(road), *đồng*(field), *đê* (dyke) and *bãi*(plain) as in (7b).

- (7) a. Bà O vào **nhà** để gặp mọi người.
My aunt entered **the house** to meet all the people.
- b. Nó ra **bãi** thả trâu, đánh bạn với bọn giữ trâu.
He arrived at **the plain** to make friend with the buffalo herders.
- c. *Culture-oriented relation*

The relationship between the Figure and the Ground in Vietnamese is regulated by some social norms such as social status, occupation, gender, politics, power, class, etc. For example, if someone in the administrative offices of hamlet or district level travels to the higher positions such as provincial or state departments, then the motion will be LÊN (ascend) for the higher position and XUỐNG (descend) for the lower position as in (8).

- (8) a. Tôi nay tôi LÊN nhà Chủ tịch Viện.
I am going to ASCEND the house of the director’s institute.
- b. Chị ấy XUỐNG huyện công tác.
She DESCEND the district for her business.

Ly ToanThang (2005: 86) arranged this relation as follows:

ASCEND	Capital	City/ Province	Education
↑	City	District	University
↕	Province	Commune	Department
↓	Village	Village	Division
DESCEND			

d. *Psychological distance relation*

Here are some locations with psychological relation:

Lại/ Về (return)	Sang/ Qua (Pass/ cross)
Trong nước (inside the country)	Nước ngoài (abroad)
Trong tỉnh (inside the province)	Ngoài tỉnh (outside the province)
Trong huyện (inside the district)	Ngoài huyện (outside the district)
Cơ quan (one’s own office)	Cơ quan khác (another office)
Nhà (one’s own house)	Nhà khác (another house)

This relation reveals a rather particular rapport between the Figure and the Ground in a motion event. This is because the direction of motion is tightly contingent upon the psychological tie between the Figure and the Ground. If the Figure has a close relationship with the Ground such as one’s house, native country, workplace, or school, the direction of motion will be VỀ/ LẠI (back) as in (9a). If that relationship is far in terms of both psychology and geography such as foreign country, other’s house, the direction of motion will be SANG/ QUA (pass) as in (9b).

- (9) a. Tôi phải về nhà tôi trong đêm nay.
I must **return** home this night.
- b. Họ **sang** Pháp cùng nhóm nghiên cứu.
They **passed** France along with a group of researchers

Lexical expressions of path motion

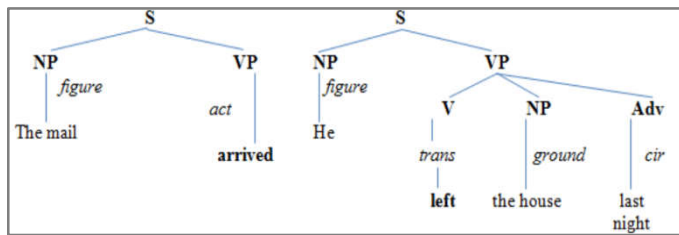
According to Lobner (2002), *an expression is just a general term for words, phrases and sentences, and expression meaning covers, in particular, word meaning and sentence meaning.* Therefore, an expression may be a word (10a), a phrase (10b) or a sentence (10c) in terms of syntax.

- (10) a. walk
- b. walk to school
- c. We walk to school.

Besides, Payne (2011) notes that there are three types of expressions in which language allows speakers to express variations and a conceptual category in meaning. He adds that *lexical expression is any formal expression of a conceptual category which simply must be memorized, rather than constructed according to a pattern.* Payne (ibid: 33) posits that the *conceptual category* in this definition describes some specific elements of meaning that speakers of a language pay special attention to in terms of grammar. For example, some conceptual categories of the verb “kick” may be understood as a *dynamic verb, motion verb, transitive verb and causative verbs*, etc. Also, Payne (2011) argues that in order to be a conceptual category, a particular element must determine some patterns of grammatical expressions, such as lexical expressions, morphological expressions and syntactical expressions. Therefore, a conceptual category can be a key element to understand lexical expressions. For example, in order to take in the lexical expression of “go to school”, it requires us to interpret the conceptual categories in this expression, such as the conceptual category of the verb “go” means the movement from somewhere towards school, and the preposition “to” means direction towards school and on the way to school, etc. More particularly, Payne supports another way to understand the conceptual category is to rely on differences in sets of roots. That is, we can identify differences in the conceptual categories of some verbs by analyzing their roots. For example, the identification of conceptual categories of “go” and “come” is based on

the different roots of “go” and “come”. The verb “go” means the movement from the speaker to somewhere, and “come” from somewhere to the speaker. As a result, a lexical expression of path motion can be explicated as follows: “A lexical expression of path motion can be a word, phrase, or sentence, which expresses any formal form of a conceptual category of the path verbs and other relevant components, such figure or ground, etc. The path verbs can be transitive and intransitive verbs. When these verbs are intransitive, they generally refer to the acts of motion as in “arrive” as in (11a). Also, when they are transitive, they denote the translational motion as in “left” as in(11b).

- (11) a. The mail **arrived**.
- b. He **left** the house last night.



LEs PM in Vietnamese can be schematized as follows.

Table 1. A schematization of LEPM

A lexical expression of path motion			
Subject	Predicate of path motion		
	Verb phrase	Periphery	
He	left	The house	early last night
Arg ₁	Verb	Arg ₂	Arg ₃

A path motion event

Research Methods

Data preparation

The short stories and novels were written in Vietnamese, which are both popular in the contemporary century and written by the different writers in terms of distinct ages and cultures from the 19th century onwards. These stories were coded from VS01 to VS12. These stories and novels were read through to pick up the sentences containing the path verbs and spatial prepositions. These stories and novels were collected which satisfied the three following purposes inquiries: (i) by different authors; (ii) in different historical contexts; and (iii) in a different style.

Data analysis

After the data are collected, we begin to analyze the data according to these approaches; they helped the researcher identify procedures to collect the data, analyze the data and to locate the problems of the study as well.

Quantitative approach: First, the quantitative approach ratifies the completion of a statistical analysis helping to provide essential statistical evidence for the generalization of common features of LEsPM in Vietnamese. It is first used to figure out the frequency of motion verbs in LEsPM so that we can arrive at a conclusion on what is the typical property of LEsPM. Also, it is harnessed to discover the

most commonly used linguistic properties of LEsPM. The findings are crucial in providing an in-depth interpretation of LEsPM.

Qualitative approach

The *qualitative technique* plays a crucial part in this research. First, the qualitative method helped the researcher to identify research steps and procedures from the theories of cognitive linguistics and the previous studies on analyzing motion. Then, these steps and procedures enabled the researcher to select the data by reading through the English stories. The data analyses would, then, allow the researcher to identify the properties of verbs in LEsPM. Afterward, LEsPM continued to be analyzed to find out theories and hypothesis including the syntactic and semantic features.

Finding and Discussion

This section is concerned with the semantic and syntactic properties of LEsPM in Vietnamese. The syntactic properties are conducted on the basis of the theory of grammar construction related to the form and meaning relation. Next, the semantic properties are associated with the lexicalization patterns of semantic components mapped on the surface forms.

Construction grammar of LEsPM in Vietnamese

This part explores the form-meaning correspondences of LEsPM in Vietnamese. This exploration includes: (i) the arguments arranged around the path verbs; and (ii) the information of different situations packed in the path verbs.

Argument Structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese: Table 2 summarizes the argument structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which is grouped into four categories; (i) numbers of arguments in each expression, (ii) types of arguments; (iii) the number of verbs; and (iv) distribution of each type.

Table 2. Argument structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese

Number of Args	Argument structures	Verbs	%
1	a. V[Figure]	18	47.3
2	b. V[Figure Place]	11	28.9
	c. V[Figure Ground]	23	60.5
	d. V[Figure Path]	17	44.7
3	e. V[Figure Ground Manner]	9	23.6

a. V [Figure]

The path verbs in this structure are the intransitive path verbs because they have one argument of the Figure. This structure denotes that the motion of the Figure is considered a result, but not a process. As a result, the Ground as well as the Path is not mentioned. There are 18 path verbs, making up 47.3%, found in the data (e.g., *biến khỏi, co quắp, để, đến gần, đi, đi đầu, đi khỏi, hạ cánh, lên, lùi, nhập cư, ra, tản cư, tới, trở lại, trốn thoát, vào* and *xuống*) in this structure. Take (12) as an example, in which *Em* is the Figure and *đi* is motion.

- (12) Em không **đi**.
- I no go

b. V [Figure Place]

This structure denotes that the motion takes place in harmony with the Ground. In other words, the Figure's motion is limited by that Ground, so this structure does not include the Path and Ground. There are 11 path verbs found in the data, occupying 28, 9%, in this structure, namely *đạo*(wander), *đi*(go), *đột kích*(raid), *gục*(bend), *hạ cánh*(land), *lùi*(back), *ra*(leave), *trốn thoát*(escape) and *vào* (enter) with two arguments such as the Figure *một bóng người*(the shade of a person) and the Place *trong ngõ*(the gate).

(13) *Bỗng một bóng người* cũng nhắc xồng xộc **vào** trong ngõ.
Suddenly, a person's shade **entered** the gate with a rush.

c. V [Figure Ground]

There are 23 the path verbs, making up 60.5% consisting of two arguments, which are the Figure and the Ground. Thus, these path verbs are the transitive path verbs such as *bỏ xa*(outrun), *cấp*(dock), *cúi*(nod), *đạo*(wander), *đến*(come), *đến gần*(near), *đi*(go), *đi khỏi*(leave), *đột kích*(raid), *ghé*(come), *lại*(return), *lên*(ascend), *lùi*(back), *qua*(cross), *ra*(exit), *theo đuổi*(follow), *tới*(come), *trèo*(climb), *trở lại*(return), *trốn thoát*(escape), *vào* (enter) and *xuống*(descend). This structure denotes that a Figure *đò*(boat) is moving toward the Ground *bến làng Trò* (Tro Village's port).

(14) *Tầng sáng, đò* **cấp** bến làng Trò.
At dawn, the boat **docked** Tro village's port.

d. V [Figure Path]

This structure has two arguments, which are the Figure and the Path. In this structure, the Figure refers to the moving object and the Path refers to the direction of motion. The Figure and the Path of motion are more prominent, so the Ground is not mentioned. This expression consists of 17 verbs, making up 44.7%, which are *chụm*, *co*, *cúi*, *co quắp*, *doãi*, *đi*, *ghé*, *gục*, *khép*, *khuyết*, *khuyết*, *lùi*, *ngả*, *ngoảnh*, *quay* and *uốn*.

(15) *Đi khỏi* mấy bước rồi chị còn **ngoảnh** lại nhìn tôi.
Taking several steps, she **turned back** and saw me

e. V [Figure Ground Manner]

This structure consists of three arguments including Figure, Ground and Manner in which the Figure denotes the moving object and the Ground denotes the place which the Figure is moving toward. In this case, the path verbs simultaneously denote the direction and the Manner. There are 9 path verbs in Vietnamese found in the data, occupying 23.6%, namely *đạo*(wander), *đuôi* (stretch), *đi*(go), *ghé*(drop by), *khuyết*(bend down), *qua*(pass), *ra*(go out), *tới*(come) and *trở lại*(return). The verb *ghé* in the following example expresses both the motion and the manner which is not the not official visiting or in a short-timed visiting.

(16) *Một chuyến* anh được quay trở ra hậu phương và **ghé** nhà.
Once he returned the rear, he **dropped by** his house.

Event structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese: Table 3 summaries the event structures of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which is grouped into three categories such as (i) types of events; (ii) semantic features; and (iii) the path verbs denoting each of events.

Table 3. Event structures of LEsPP in Vietnamese

Event structures		Verbs	%
a. States	Atelic + Stages	0	0
b. Activities	Atelic - Stages	10	26.3
c. Achievements	Telic - Stages	26	68.4
d. Accomplishments	Telic + Stages	2	5.2
Total		38	100

a. *Event of States:* This event refers to the two semantic features such as Atelic and -Stages. The first feature refers to the motion which does not need to contain an endpoint. The second feature postulates that the event of States is stative situations. As a result, there are no verbs found in the data denoting this event.

b. *Event of Activities:* This event has two semantic features such as Atelic and -Stages. First, the Atelic feature depicts that the path verbs do not require an endpoint, so the path verbs denoting event are generally the intransitive path verbs. Next, the -Stages feature refers to dynamic situations in which the path verbs can denote the continuous motion. There are 10 path verbs (26.3%) such as *chụm* (contract), *co*(shrink), *đuôi* (stretch), *đạo*(wander), *co quắp* (twitch) and *hạ cánh*(land), etc) found in the data.

c. *Event of Achievements:* The event of Achievements denotes that the Figure of motion is necessary to move toward the Ground. In other words, the path verbs always consist of an endpoint and are transitive verbs as in (17). The -Stage property means that this is dynamic motion, which can be a continuous motion at a certain time. This is the most common event in Vietnamese including 26 path verbs, making up 68.4% (e.g., *biển khỏi*, *bỏ xa*, *cúi*, *đi khỏi*, *đột kích*, *ghé* and *ngả*, etc).

(17) Anh sẽ **ngả** con chó nằm ngửa trên một tấm nỉ lông.

d. *Event of Accomplishments:* The last event denotes the motion with an endpoint and an undynamic situation. This event is the least common in Vietnamese, which have 2 path verbs (e.g., *khuyết* and *trốn thoát*) found in the data denoting this event.

Lexicalization patterns of LEsPM in Vietnamese

This section is concerned with the lexicalization patterns of LEsPM in Vietnamese, which will elucidate semantic components conflated into the path verbs such as Path, Manner and Ground and spatial adpositions such as directions and vectors. This is an answer to the question *what are lexicalization patterns of LEsPM in VN?*

Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs in Vietnamese: Table 4 summarizes the lexicalization patterns of the semantic components conflated into the path verbs, which are Manner, Path and Ground.

Table 4. Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs in Vietnamese

Number of components	Lexicalization patterns		Verbs	Frequency%
2	external	a. Motion + Path	23	60.5
	Total		23	60.5
3	external	b. Motion + Path + Manner	12	31.5
		c. Motion + Path + Ground	3	7.8
	Total		15	39.5
4	external	d. Motion + Path+ Ground+ Manner	0	0
	Total		0	0
Total			38	100

a. *Lexicalization Patter: Motion +Path:* In this expression, two semantic components are conflated into the path verbs, which are Motion and Path. There are 23 verbs, making up 60.5% such as *biến khỏi*(disappear), *bỏ xa*(outrun), *đạo* (wander)and *đến*(arrive), etc. In general, the path verbs in this expression simultaneously denote the motion of the Figure and the path of the motion from the starting point to the Ground as in (18).

(18) Không một thằng địch nào dám **đến** gần cái đống đất ấy!
No enemies dared to **arrive** near the pile of soil.

b. *Lexicalization Patterns: Motion + Path + Manner:* This expression consists of three semantic components, which are Motion, Path and Manner. There are 12 verbs (31.5%) found in the data denoting this expression, namely *chum*, *co*(contract), *cụm*(cluster), *ưỡn*(stretch) and *khuyết*(bend). Take the verb *ưỡn* as an example; the path verb denotes that the Motion is the Figure's change of position from one place to another. Next, the Path is the route path which the Figure moves along. Last, the Manner is mostly concerned with the style of motion of the chest.

(19) Nổi xung, em cầm lấy chim, **ưỡn** người về phía bọn giặc.
Become angry! I took my penis and **stretched** my body toward the enemies.

c. *Lexicalization Patterns: Motion + Path + Ground:* There are three semantic components conflated into the path verbs, namely Motion, Path and Ground. There are three verbs, making up 7.8% found in the data (e.g., *cấp*(dock), *hạ cánh*(land) and *nhập cư*). These path verbs denote that the Figure moves from one position to another along a path *xuống* toward the Ground as in (20).

(20) Tại sao máy bay vận tải lại tề còn **hạ cánh** xuống sân bay được?

Why could some aircraft**land** the airport?

d. *Lexicalization Patterns: Motion +Path + Ground + Manner:* The four semantic components conflated in the path verbs, which are Motion, Path, Ground and Manner. However, there are no path verbs in Vietnamese denoting four semantic components at the same time.

Lexicalization patterns of Path in Vietnamese: This section is concerned with an investigation into the semantic components in terms of directions conflated into the path verbs in Vietnamese. Such directions are determined by the relative position between the Figure and Ground. Table 5 summarizes thirteen types of directions between the Figure and the Ground conflated into Vietnamese path verbs.

Table 5. Lexicalization patterns of the paths in Vietnamese

Lexicalization patterns	Verbs	%
a. V+ Away from G	7	18.4
b. V+ UP/onto G-Upwards	2	5.2
c. V+ After G	1	2.6
d. V+ Change direction	3	7.9
e. V+ Down from/to G- Downwards	5	13.1
f. V+ To/towards G	4	10.5
g. V+ Back to G- Backwards	3	7.9
h. V+ Pass/cross G	1	2.6
i. V+ Into G	7	18.4
j. V+ Closer to G	1	2.6
k. V+ Forwards G	1	2.6
l. V+ Out of G	1	2.6
m. V+ Multiple direction	2	5.2
Total	38	100

a. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ Away from G:* The path verbs denoting this direction consists of 7 path verbs (18.4%) found in the data such as *biến khỏi*, *bỏ xa*, *đoãi*, *khuyết*, *tấn cư*(evacuate), *trốn thoát*(flee), and *đi khỏi*(leave). These verbs denote that the Figure is moving away from the Ground. For instance, Figure *Hai người*, at first, is at the place of the Ground *Xiêm*, but the Figure separated from the Ground and moved away from the Ground *đi khỏi* as in (21).

(21) Hai người vừa **đi khỏi** Xiêm đã sập hết các phen cửa.
Two people had no sooner **left** than Xiêm shut the door.

b. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ UP/onto G-Upwards:* The verbs with this direction denote that the Figure moves from a low position to a higher position. There are two path verbs (5.2%) which denote this direction such as *lên*(ascend) and *trèo*(climb). The verb *lên* expresses the direction of motion from a low position to a higher position; meanwhile, the verb *trèo* provides some more specific information about motion such as from a low position to a higher position, a vertical direction, an animate Figure and motion with legs and arms as in (22).

(22) Lượng **trèo** (lên) những bậc đá.
Lượng **climbed** the steps.

c. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ After G:* There is only one verb *theo* (follow)denoting this Path found in the data in Vietnamese. This verb denotes that Figure *Chị em* is moving after the Ground *Bộ đội* which may (not) be moving at the same time.

(23) Chị em chỉ có thể bố trí từng tốp **theo** Bộ đội.
We divide ourselves into groups **like** Military.

d. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ Change direction:* The verbs such as *quay*(turn), *ngỏảnh*(avert) and *nghe*(drop by) denote that the Figure is moving according to a certain direction but urgently changes its direction. The verbs *quay* and *ngỏảnh* reveals that the second direction is completely opposite to the first direction as in (24a). The verb *ghé* means the Figure may turn left or turn right, so the Figure in this expression must be agentive subject as in (24b).

(24) a. Kinh **quay** người và nói nhỏ hơn.
Kinh **turned** round and spoke more softly.
b. Thấy rứa, nó cũng tò mò **ghé** lại coi chút cho biết: Seeing that, he curiously **dropped by** to know what was happening.

e. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ Down from/to G- Downwards:* There are six verbs (15.7%) denoting this direction found in the data such as *xuống*, *ngả*(incline), *khuyết*, *hạ cánh*, *gục*(collapse) and *cúi*(bow). The verb *hạ cánh* denotes the vertical direction from a high position to a low position, but other verbs do not. More specially, the Figure of the verb *hạ cánh* must be a type of machine- like planes. The verbs *xuống*, *ngả*, *cúi* and *khuyết* denote the directions of the curve.

f. *Lexicalization pattern: V+ To/towards G:* The verbs with this direction denote mean that the Figure is moving in the direction of the Ground and approaching it. There are four verbs of Vietnamese path verbs (10.5%) found in the data denoting this direction, namely *tới*(arrive), *đi*(go), *đi đầu*(head), and *đến*(come). There is a difference between the verb *đi* and *đến*. The verb *đi* denotes that the Figure moves from the speaker to the hearer, but the verb *đến* from the hearer to the speaker. More specially, the verb *đi đầu* depicts that

Figure is standing in the first position and moving in the direction of the Ground.

g. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Back to G- Backwards:** The verbs with this direction posit that the Figure is at the same place as the Ground, and then the Figure is moving towards the Ground. There are three path verbs (7.8%) found in the data, namely *lùi*(return), *lại*(back) and *trở lại*(come back). The verbs *lùi* and *lại* express the direction of the Figure towards the Ground while the verb *trở lại* does not only denote the direction of the Figure but the starting point and the destination as well.

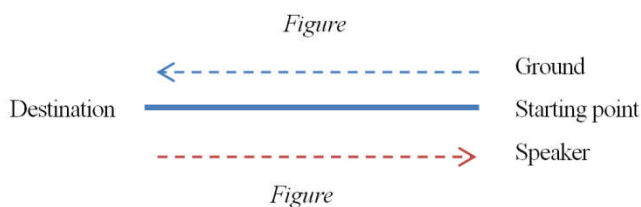


Figure 2. The direction conflated into the verb *trở lại*

h. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Pass/cross G:** There is one verb (2.6%) denoting this direction in Vietnamese, which is *qua* (*băng qua*). This direction means that the Figure (the arrow) may move from one side to another of the Ground as Figure 3, move into at one side and out of at another side of the Ground as Figure 3, or move parallel with the Ground as Figure 3c. In this expression, the sides of the Ground play an important role in determining the starting point as well as endpoint of motion, especially the limitation of Figure's movement. In reality, the Ground plays a role as the Path.

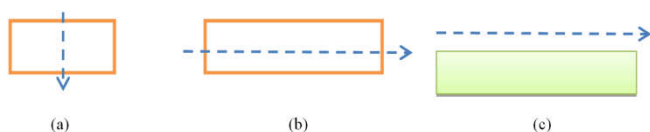


Figure 3: The direction conflated into the verb *qua*

i. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Into G:** There are seven path verbs (18.4%) found in the data denoting this direction, namely *vào*, *nhập cư*, *co quắp*, *co*, *chùm*, *chúm* and *cập*. The verb *vào* denotes the direction from the outside part to the inside part of the Ground. The verbs *co quắp*, *co*, *chùm* and *chúm* express the Figure's change of size, which is normally from big size to a smaller size. Next, for the case of the verb *nhập cư*(immigrate), the Figure must be the agentive subject, which moves from a country into another. Finally, the verb *cập*(dock) refers to the Figure's motion from the open sea or river to the shore or harbor.

j. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Closer to G:** The verb with this direction denotes that the Figure is nearing the Ground. There is only one path verb *khép*(shut) expressing this direction found in the data, making up 2.6%. In this case, there are generally two Figures, which move coincidentally.

k. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Forwards G:** There is one word found in the data denoting this direction, which is *đến gần*(near). When denoting this direction, the Ground is considered to be the destination or the target for the Figure which is moving towards nearer and nearer the Ground from the distance.

l. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Out of G:** Opposite to the direction *into G*, the verb with this direction expresses the Figure's motion from the inside area to the outside area, and the Ground is regarded as the container. To put it simply, the starting of motion will be certainly inside of the container and the endpoint must be outside the Ground. In addition, this motion is conceptualized as moving from a covered area to an open area. There is one verb found in the data which denotes this direction (*ra*), which posits that the Figure normally moves from a small area to a larger one as in (25).

(25) Cà đội ùa hết **ra** sân mặc dầu trời vẫn lác rắc mưa.
The group **rushed** to the yard despite drizzle.

m. **Lexicalization pattern: V+ Multiple directions:** This verb denoting this direction normally consists of many Figures at the same time, and each of Figures moves in different directions. There are two verbs (5.2%) with this direction found in the data, which are *dạo* and *đi khỏi*.

Conclusion

This paper is associated with the way how Vietnamese people render their knowledge and experience in terms of path motion into language through an investigation into semantic and syntactic of motion path verbs. In terms of the syntax, LEM is analyzed on the theory of construction grammar which points out speakers' knowledge of LEM including argument structures and event structures. By that I mean the way how Vietnamese people organize linguistic elements to express motion. In the first place, the argument structures of LEM are concerned with the syntactic aspects of the path verbs. To be more precise, the arrangement of motion elements (e.g., *Figure*, *Ground*, *Path* and *Motion*) with motion verbs. In this paper, there are five argument structures which were found in the data. Next, the event structures of LEM pertain to the lexical aspects of path verbs. That means an investigation into the components of lexical meanings conflated into the path verbs in Vietnamese was conducted. Semantically speaking, this paper does with the theory of lexicalization patterns which refers to the conflation of semantic components in motion events are lexicalized into the path verbs. More particularly, this paper also delves into the conflation of semantic components into the spatial prepositions.

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Appendix

LEXICAL EXPRESSIONS OF PATH MOTION (LEsPM) in VIETNAMESE

I. Lexicalization patterns of Semantic components

- * 1= Motion + Path
- * 2= Motion + Path + Manner
- * 3= Motion + Path + Ground
- * 4= Motion + Path + Ground + Manner

II. Lexicalization patterns of Paths

- * 1= Away from G
- * 2= Up/ Onto G-Upwards
- * 3= After G
- * 4= Change direction
- * 5= Down from/ to G-Downwards
- * 6= To/ towards G
- * 7= Back to G/ Backwards
- * 8= Pass/ Cross G
- * 9= Into G
- * 10= Closer to G
- * 11= Forwards
- * 12= Out of G
- * 13= Multiple directions

III. Argument Structures

- * 1= V [Figure]
- * 2= V [Figure Place]
- * 3= V [Figure Ground]
- * 4= V [Figure Path]
- * 5= V [Figure Ground Manner]

IV. Event Structures

a. Types of events

- * 1= Events of States
- * 2= Events of Activities
- * 3= Events of Accomplishments
- * 4= Events of Achievements

b. Types of motion

- * 1= Translational motion
- * 2= Self-contained Motion

Path Verbs	Lexicalization patterns of the path verbs				Lexicalization patterns of Paths													Argument Structures					Event Structures								
	M P	M P M	M P G	M P G M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	Types of events				Types of motion				
																							1	2	3	4	1	2			
Biển khơi	✓				✓													✓		✓							✓		✓		
Bỏ xa	✓				✓															✓									✓		✓
Cấp			✓										✓							✓									✓		✓
Chúm		✓											✓								✓						✓			✓	
Chum		✓											✓								✓						✓			✓	
Co		✓											✓								✓						✓			✓	
Cúi		✓						✓													✓	✓					✓			✓	
Co quắp		✓											✓							✓	✓						✓			✓	
Đạo	✓															✓			✓	✓			✓				✓			✓	
Đoãi		✓			✓																✓						✓			✓	
Đến	✓								✓									✓		✓			✓				✓		✓	✓	
Đến gần	✓															✓				✓						✓			✓		
Đi	✓									✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	
Đi đầu		✓								✓								✓	✓						✓			✓		✓	
Đi khỏi	✓				✓													✓		✓						✓			✓	✓	
Đột kích		✓														✓			✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	
Ghé	✓						✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	
Gục		✓						✓											✓		✓					✓			✓	✓	
Hạ cánh			✓					✓										✓	✓							✓			✓	✓	
Khép	✓														✓						✓					✓			✓	✓	
Khuỳnh		✓			✓																							✓		✓	✓
Khuyu		✓						✓													✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓
Lại	✓											✓								✓						✓			✓	✓	
Lên	✓					✓												✓	✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	
Lùi	✓											✓						✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	
Ngã	✓							✓												✓						✓			✓	✓	
Nhập cư			✓										✓					✓								✓			✓	✓	
Qua	✓												✓							✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	
Ngoảnh		✓					✓													✓						✓			✓	✓	
Quay	✓						✓													✓						✓			✓	✓	
Ra	✓															✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	
Tản cư			✓		✓													✓	✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	
Theo	✓						✓													✓						✓			✓	✓	
Tới	✓									✓								✓		✓			✓			✓			✓	✓	
Trèo	✓					✓														✓						✓			✓	✓	
Trở lại	✓											✓						✓		✓			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Trốn thoát	✓				✓													✓	✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	
Vào	✓												✓					✓	✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	
Xuống	✓							✓										✓		✓						✓			✓	✓	
Ừn		✓			✓																✓						✓			✓	✓
38	23	12	3	0	7	2	1	3	5	4	3	1	7	1	1	1	2	18	11	23	17	9	0	10	26	2	30	8			
