
RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Grammatical Features of Vietnamese Journalistic Discourses about Women from Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis Theory

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ABSTRACT

Basing principally on Fairclough's theory of Critical Discourse Analysis (2001) and Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (1994), Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis was initiated in "Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis - Gender, Power and Ideology in Discourse" by Lazar (2005) is developed into a discourse research approach that sheds interest on the relationship between gender power and language or language use. Following this research approach, this paper outlines a detailed study of the grammatical features of journalistic discourse written about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers, issues of 2021, from the perspectives of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis, of which the grammatical features of journalistic discourse would be expressed in three aspects: experiential, interpersonal, and expressive values. More specifically, the experiential values of grammar were reflected in the transitivity processes, the interpersonal values were shown in modes of sentences, and finally, the expressive values were realized in the expressive modality. The study results revealed that the three most frequently used processes were material, relational and verbal. Besides, declarative sentence type was used most frequently, and there was very little likelihood of modal word use. These grammatical features were consistent with the news genre applied for newspapers while remaining ample contextual conditions for reflecting journalists' perceptions of women and feminism.

KEYWORDS

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis, grammatical features, journalistic discourses, women

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1. Introduction

Feminism and gender studies have become a part of modern research and are newsworthy issues for the academia of the present day. Based on the theoretical basis of Critical Discourse Analysis, Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis has flourished in the field of gender and language. In Feminist CDA as Political Perspective and Praxis, Lazar (2005) built a theoretical foundation for a new research direction in discourse analysis. Critical Discourse Analysis and Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis identify and, therefore, analyze discourse in three dimensions: text production, discourse practice, and social practice (Fairclough, 2001; Lazar, 2005). Following Halliday's Functional Grammar theory, Critical Discourse Analysis holds that a text is the basis of discourse and that linguistic elements within a text have experiential, interpersonal, and expressive values. Through the amalgam of feminism and the Critical Discourse Analysis, we can better understand how ideology and power work in discourse to sustain gender-social relations. Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis draws interest in the relationship between gender power and language or language use (Laza, 2005). To clarify the gendered power relationships in a society, ideology and social perception of gender discourse, it is necessary to first analyze the characteristics of linguistic elements in the text, including the grammatical features.

In modern society, increasing gender equality and enhancing the position of women is substantially emphasized. Mass media, in general, and newspapers, as a social institution, play an essential role in social life, namely providing information and entertainment

and shaping social values. According to the linguist Norman Fairclough (2001), discourse is part of social practice. Newspapers about women are one of the social discourses expressing the views and perceptions of society about women and feminism. As a newspaper under the Vietnam Women's Union, Vietnamese Women Newspapers has several specific categories and a certain number of news articles devoted to topics about women. This paper wishes to apply the theory and methods of Lazar's Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis and Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis approach to examine the grammatical features in journalistic discourse written about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers- issues of the year 2021.

1.1 Research Questions

This study aimed to analyze the grammatical features in journalistic discourse written about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers- issues of the year 2021. The research aimed to address the following question:

What experiential, relational and expressive meanings are realized in the grammatical features of journalistic discourse written about women?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA) is a research approach developed under the broader branch of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis was formed in the early years of the 21st century under the strong development of the feminist movement and the far-reaching influence of feminism on academia. This direction is a combination of feminism and critical discourse analysis theory.

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis theory sheds interest in the relationship between gender power and language or language use, specifically unequal gendered power relations and forms of empowerment in texts (Lazar, 2005). Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis advances rich and nuanced analyses of the complex workings of power and ideology in discourse in sustaining hierarchically gendered social orders. The work "Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis - Gender, Power and Ideology in Discourse", edited by Lazar, has gathered research from many authors on gender and power relationships in social discourses. Among them, research on journalistic discourse includes "The 'Terrorist Feminist': Strategies of Gate-Keeping in the Hungarian Printed Media" by Erzsébet Barát and "Assumptions about Gender, Power and Opportunity: Gays and Lesbians as Discursive Subjects in a Portuguese Newspaper" by Carlos A. M. Gouveia. The theoretical system of Critical Discourse Analysis focuses on the relationship between social practices and discourse structures. Critical Discourse Analysis research produces a system of strategies and tools to analyze contextualized uses of language in discourse specifically (Laza 2005: 114). According to Fairclough (2001), the term 'critical' in the name of the approach indicates that it seeks to show connections that may be hidden from people, such as the connections between language, power and ideology (cited in Sunderland and Litosseliti 2002:19). Based on the theory of Critical Discourse Analysis, Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis determine that the purpose of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis is to show "the ways in which frequently taken-for-granted gendered assumptions and hegemonic power relations are discursively produced, sustained, negotiated, and challenged in different contexts and communities" (Laza 2007: 142). In Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis, the interest is on representations of gender (identities) and gendered power relationships in specific texts and their specific contexts (Lazar 2005:11). These relationships are expressed through the use of language in discourse depending on the specific context.

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis hopes to bring the analysis of gender closer to practice by looking at the linguistic and discursive construction of gender in specific texts and contexts. Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis applies the methods of CDA. In his book *Language and Power* (2001), Fairclough outlined a three-dimensional framework for recognizing and analyzing discourse. More specifically, the three dimensions of critical discourse analysis are description, interpretation, and explanation. The description is the first stage, which considers discourse as text to analyze the formal properties of the text. Interpretation is concerned with the relationship between text and interaction. Text is considered "as the product of a process of production, and as a resource in the process of interpretation". The explanation "is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context - with the social determination of the processes of production and interpretation, and their social effects". Explanation corresponds to the analysis of the social practical dimension of discourse. This step of analysis explores how discourse is shaped by social structures and the effects that discourse can have on those structures, maintaining or changing them (Fairclough 2001: 22). Fairclough also distinguished between three types of value that correspond with three formal features: experiential, relational, and expressive. "A formal feature with experiential value is a trace of and a cue to the way in which the text producer's experience of the natural or social world is represented." Experiential value is connected to the worldview of the discourse producer. It has to do with "contents and knowledge and beliefs." "A formal feature with relational value is a trace of and a cue to the social relationships which are enacted via the text in the discourse." Relational value is connected to the social relationship between the creator of the text and the participants that is created and maintained in discourse. "A formal feature with expressive value is a trace of and a cue to the producer's evaluation of the bit of the reality it relates to". Expressive value refers to how the text creator

evaluates what is being discussed, which is the evaluative value of the discourse. (Fairclough 2001:94). Fairclough listed ten main questions to describe text about three values of vocabulary, grammar, and textual structures. Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis is based on the methods of Critical Discourse Analysis, which focuses on analyzing the choice in lexis, clauses/sentences/utterances, conversational turns, structures of argument and genre, and interactions among discourses. It should be noted that not all elements in texts exhibit gender characteristics, so the analyst needs to decide which text features and linguistic elements may be related to gender to analyze each specific text. (Laza 2007: 151, Sunderland & Litosseliti 2002: 151)

2.2. The grammatical features of the discourse according to Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis

Fairclough (2001) identified text, interaction, and social context as three discourse elements. Corresponding to the three discourse elements are three stages of critical discourse analysis: *description* of the text, *interpretation* of the relationship between text and interaction, and *explanation* of the relationship between interaction and social context. Fairclough's perspective of CDA theory is based on examining the internal elements of discourse, such as vocabulary, grammar, and discourse structures. Fairclough proposed applying Halliday's theoretical framework of systematic functional grammar to consider linguistic features in discourse. The task of CDA is to analyze the experiential, relational, and expressive values of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation corresponding to the three meta-functions of language in the description. For grammar, the experiential aspects involve how the grammatical forms of a language code, happenings or relationships in the world, and the people or animals or things involved in those happenings or relationships are expressed through the transitivity process. The grammatical features of texts which have relational values can be modes of sentence. There are three major modes: declarative, grammatical question, and imperative. The mode of sentence is the type of utterances/sentences. The expressive value of grammatical features is expressed through the perception of the problem and its realization in the language user's assessment. According to Fairclough (2001), the expressive value of grammatical features often focuses on expressive modality and, in some cases, also needs to be clearly distinguished from relational modality. He believed that to express ideological viewpoints in grammatical structures, we usually use modal expressions through verbs, auxiliary verbs, or modal adverbs.

3. Methodology

3.1. Data collection

The object of the study is the grammatical features of discourse used for articles written about women. The following are steps for data collection in the research. The researcher first gathered all issues of Vietnamese Women's Newspapers in 2021. Then, selected articles were mostly written about women, including articles reporting on female figures and ones discussing issues and aspects related to women. The total number of articles collected is 956 articles.

3.2. Research Method

The article applies the method of discourse analysis in the direction of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis, employing the 3-dimensional CDA method by Norman Fairclough (1989). The analysis took several steps.

- First, analyze grammatical elements that represent experiential values in discourses.
- Second, analyze grammatical elements that represent relational values in discourses.
- Third, analyze grammatical elements that represent expressive values in discourses.

In each analysis stage, the researcher performs two detailed analysis steps:

- Counted the number and the frequency of grammatical elements surveyed. In this step, the researchers use the quantitative analysis method.

The results of counting the number and the frequency of grammatical elements are shown in a table with the following pattern:

Grammatical elements	Number	Percentage (%)

- Generate concrete discourse description features, including grammatical elements with experiential, relational, and expressive values in the discourse within the framework of CDA.

4. Results and Discussion

To clarify the grammatical features of journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers, issues published in 2021, we analyzed three values of grammatical elements: experiential, relational, and expressive.

4.1. The experiential value of grammar

Surveying the types of transitivity processes in journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021, we have the following table of results:

Table 1. Summary of survey results on transitivity processes in journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021

Transitivity process	Number N= 16,891	Percentage (%)
Material	5,458	32.31
Behavioural	885	5.24
Mental	2,213	13.1
Verbal	2,434	14.41
Relational	5,089	30.13
Existential	812	4.81

From the results table, it can be seen that the main types of processes used to highlight the content and ideology of journalistic discourse about women are material, relational and verbal processes. The world of experience in journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021 is the world of matter, relationships and speech. The material processes composed the highest rate. This world is formed mainly by material processes, including acts of creation, change, impact and actions. A material process is a process that describes a certain type of action or event in the physical world, and these action events are usually specific, physical actions and events that can be felt and observed. Newspapers, in general, and news discourse, in particular, have the outstanding functions of providing immediate news about events taking place in social life. The world of experience is reflected mainly through the material processes: those are events and actions. It is consistent with Halliday's view that matter is one of the three main processes in the system of motion. At the same time, it is consistent with the reporting purposes of journalistic discourse. A clause with a material process obligatorily has a doing (process), a doer (participant I) and an entity to which the process is extended or directed (participant II). The material processes in journalistic discourse about women have the main actions being women (individuals or groups), the main actions being daily work and employment. Through material processes, the world of experience in press discourse about women presents the images of their daily lives. For example: *Tuy công việc bận rộn nhưng chị Nguyễn Thị Anh vẫn sắp xếp thời gian để chăm sóc gia đình* (Although being busy with daily work, Ms. Nguyen Thi Anh Nhan still managed to find time to take care of her family) (No.2, 01-01-2021); *Chị đã tham gia hướng dẫn, huấn luyện đào tạo cho khoảng 180 công nhân của hợp tác xã* (She participated in guiding and training about 180 workers of the cooperative group) (No.2, 01-04-2021); *Hàng ngày, bà đạp xe đi làm hoặc đi nhiều nơi khác để công tác* (Every day, she cycles to work or to many other places for business) (No. 21, 02-17-2021).

In the world of experience in journalistic discourse about women, the relational process ranks second in quantity. The relational process describes the experience with the effect of connecting relationships between things and phenomena and connecting the ownership relationships between their attributes. The relational process determines the identity of an object or represents the object's properties. In journalistic discourse about women, the relational process determines the article's subject, introduces the characters (origin, background...), and shows the characters' properties, characteristics, and personalities. Example: *Cô tươi tắn, rạng rỡ, duyên dáng, tự tin. Anh là cả thế giới của cô. Mẹ chồng Lưu Kỳ Hương là một người phụ nữ Hà Nội gốc, đoan trang, nền nã.* (She is fresh, radiant, charming, confident. He is her whole world. Luu Ky Huong's mother-in-law is a native Hanoi woman, dignified and elegant) (No.10, 01-22-2021); *Mẹ vốn là người nghiêm khắc với con cái* (Mother is inherently strict with her children) (No.8, 01-18-2021). Relational processes are a means for journalists to introduce and describe the characters being reported, thereby expressing their views and assessments of the characters. Example: *Cô năm nay 25 tuổi, đã có 2 con, con lớn 4 tuổi, con nhỏ hơn 2 tuổi* (She is 25 years old this year, has 2 children, the older child is 4 years old, the younger child is 2 years old) (No.31, 3-12-2021); *Chị đã có 52 công trình và sáng kiến cải tiến kỹ thuật được công nhận* (She has had 52 projects and technical innovation initiatives recognized) (No.2, 01-01-2021). Material and relational processes help define characters and actions and perform the primary function of news discourse, which is to provide news information.

The verbal processes have a third potential position in describing the world of experience in journalistic discourse about women. Halliday (1994) views this as one of three intermediate processes (including behavioral, verbal, and existential processes). Speaking is undoubtedly a kind of action, and treating it as a material process is not unreasonable. On the other hand, it has some features of mental processes, especially if we believe that verbalizing thoughts is a kind of inner speech. A case can be made for postulating a new category of the process: verbal processes – verbs of 'saying'. Verbal processes show activities related to information. In the surveyed newspaper discourses about women, the speaking process is expressed by many different verbs expressing the meaning

of speaking, such as nói (say), cho biết (tell), cho rằng (assume), thổ lộ (confess), bày tỏ (express), nhấn mạnh (emphasize), khẳng định (affirm), chia sẻ (share),... Example: *Chị Hà cho biết, cũng chính từ việc nhận dạy nghề mà chị đã đến gần với công tác Hội địa phương* (Ms. Ha said that it was also from receiving vocational training that she got closer to the work of the local Association) (No.2, 01-04-2021); *Lê Be La chia sẻ: "Mình lo lắng là do công việc củ mình không ổn định"* (Le Be La shared: "I'm worried because my job is unstable") (No.2, 01-04-2021); *Thảo Trang cũng mỉm cười thổ lộ: "Thực sự 1 năm qua, khi 2 đứa gặp nhau, quen nhau thì không có sóng gió gì"* (Thao Trang also smiled and confided: "Actually, over the past year, when the two of us met and got to know each other, there were no storms") (No.21, 02-17-2021); *Bí thư Đảng đoàn, Chủ tịch Hội LHPN Việt Nam, khẳng định: NQLT 01/TW có vai trò, ý nghĩa đặc biệt, bởi những hoạt động phối hợp giữa công an và phụ nữ xuất phát từ góc độ gia đình* (Party Secretary, President of the Women's Union Vietnam, affirmed: NQLT 01/TW has a special role and meaning, because coordinated activities between police and women come from the family perspective) (No.4, 08-01-2021). The use of numerous verbs expressing different meanings of speech actions shows the speakers' attitude towards the content they presented and helps the expression become more lively and diverse. Verbal processes with many different speech verbs are effective for women, who are the subjects of articles, to present their thoughts and voices directly. It is an expression of women's empowerment in the media. Journalist discourse about women, therefore, contributes to the development of feminism and affirms the position of women. The transitivity system with many verbal processes is a unique characteristic of the journalistic discourse genre. Besides providing information about events and actions, journalistic discourse often quotes the opinions and statements of different people expressed by the speaking process. Verbal processes are concretized by multi-source dialogues, which are dialogues quoted by journalists from other information sources. The use of multi-source dialogue implies the credibility of the information, increases the credibility of the article or increases the compromise with the reader that the information accompanying these reviews is completely truthful, reasonable, and trustworthy, and the author really wants readers to believe in what has been written.

According to Halliday (1994), mental, material and relational processes are the main processes that create the world of experience. The remaining three processes (verbal, behavioural and existential) are only intermediate and secondary processes. However, in the case of the empirical world of journalist discourse, the survey gave results that were not entirely consistent with the above viewpoint. Mental process realization is fewer in number than verbal process realization, but the difference in ratio is not noticeable. Mental processes are potentially fourth place in the experiential world of journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021. Mental processes enable language users to express opinions, thoughts, and tastes that help identify their definitions of reality. The mental process in journalistic discourse about women mainly represents the thoughts and feelings of the characters being reported. The mental process is more inclined to express a subjective assessment or a spokesperson's comment. This process appears mostly in articles in the confession section and on life, marriage, and family topics. Example: *Cô không tin vào hạnh phúc, cô sợ một lần nữa bị tổn thương thì mình sẽ không đứng dậy được.* (She doesn't believe in happiness, she's afraid that if she gets hurt again she won't be able to get up) (No.31, 03-12-2021); *Tôi muốn làm vì không quen ngồi không* (I want to do it because I'm not used to sitting idle) (No.152, 12-20-2021); *Chị Mai Thị Thanh Huệ vẫn quyết tâm để chiến thắng bệnh tật* (Ms. Mai Thi Thanh Hue is still determined to overcome the disease) (No. 4, 01-08-2021); *Chị càng thêm yêu cuộc sống và cảm nhận được hết ý nghĩa của nó.* (She loves life more and feels its full meaning) (No. 4, 01-08-2021). Mental processes in journalistic discourse about women represent women's inner world, emotions, and thoughts about all aspects of life. Mental processes appear a lot in articles on the topic of marriage - family, confessions, and emotional counseling columns to exploit female characters' feelings and ways of thinking about these issues. News articles reporting on work and politics rarely show mental processes. From FCDA's perspective, it can be seen that this is a manifestation of gender discrimination. Articles about women still focus a lot on describing women's inner thoughts and feelings in emotional and family matters and have yet to explore women's feelings about other social activities.

Behavioral and existential processes have insignificant proportions in the discourse examined. Behavioural processes are processes of physiological and psychological behaviour, like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering. They are the least distinct of all the six process types because they have no clearly defined characteristics of their own; rather, they are partly like the material and partly like the mental. In other words, this type is the grey area between material and mental processes. Typically, behavioural processes have only one participant who is 'behaving': that is, the human who is typically a conscious being. Along with material processes, behavioral processes contribute to describing the behavior of characters reported in journalistic discourse. Example: *Những lần bị công kích như vậy, Hồng Ngọc âm thầm khóc* (When being attacked like that, Hong Ngoc silently cried) (No.63, 05-26-2021); *Chồng cô luôn tỏ ra rất tốt* (Her husband always seems very good) (No.3, 03-12-2021). Existential processes are processes of existence. These represent that something exists or happens. For example: *Có 3 tỉnh không có nữ đại biểu quốc hội* (There are 3 provinces that do not have female parliamentarians) (No.36, 03-24-2021); *Trong số 12 thành viên nữ của Bệnh viện dã chiến cấp 2 số 3, có 2 chị từng là thành viên của Bệnh viện dã chiến cấp 2 số 1* (Among the 12 female members of the Level 2 Field Hospital No. 3, there are 2 women who were members of the Level 2 Field Hospital No. 1) (No.36, 3-24-2021).

4.2. The relational value of grammatical features

According to Fairclough (2001), to clarify the relational value of grammatical features of discourse, the analyst needs to consider the modes of the sentence. “These three modes position subjects differently. In the case of a typical declarative, the subject position of the speaker/writer is that of a giver (of information), and the addressee’s position is that of a receiver. In the case of the imperative, the speaker/writer is in the position of asking the addressee something (action on the latter’s part), while the addressee is a compliant actor. In a grammatical question, the speaker/writer is again asking something of the addressee, in this case, information, and the addressee is in the position of a provider of information” (Fairclough, 2001: 105). Surveying the modes of sentence in 956 journalistic discourses about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021, the results are presented in the following table:

Table 2: Modes of sentence in journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021

Modes of sentence	Number N= 16891	Percentage %
Declarative	14265	84.43
Imperative	1529	8.35
Grammatical Question	1328	7.22

Corresponding to each function of the utterances, the type of utterance can help achieve the speaker's intention. A declarative sentence is a type of sentence that has the function of stating and reporting information and events. It is the dominant sentence type in the surveyed newspaper discourse, with the highest position and a rate many times higher than the other two sentence types: questions and requests. Journalistic texts have the function of reporting and providing information and news to readers, so most sentences in journalistic texts are declarative sentences. The relational value of the narrative type is to establish a relationship between the reporter and the reader, providing general information about news and events in social life, news about women, and the author's point of view on issues related to women. Example: *Bà Hà Thị Khánh Nguyệt mong muốn, Đảng sẽ có thêm những Nghị quyết về bình đẳng giới, vì sự tiến bộ của phụ nữ để tiến tới bình đẳng giới thực sự* (Ms. Ha Thi Khanh Nguyet hopes that the Party will have more Resolutions on gender equality, for the advancement of women to move towards true gender equality) (No. 9, 01-20-2021); *Cơ hội còn mở ra với các nữ doanh nhân khi trong bối cảnh đại dịch, thị trường trong nước* (Opportunities also open up for female entrepreneurs in the context of a pandemic, in the domestic market) (No.3, 01- 06-2021).

Imperative sentences and questions are very few in number compared to declarative sentences in the surveyed newspaper discourse. The imperative type of sentence is a form of command suggestion... that has the function of calling, encouraging, persuading, and orienting the recipient's actions. In Vietnamese, imperative clauses often have formal signs that are subclasses of duty denoting words such as *hãy* (let/should), *nên* (should), *phải* (must), *không được* (mustn't), *không nên* (shouldn't). Example: *Phụ nữ hãy sống tích cực, yêu thương bản thân, tự tin và hạnh phúc* (Women should live positively, love themselves, be confident and happy) (No. 10, 01-22-2021); *Chúng ta phải giúp các bạn nữ tự tin, mạnh dạn lựa chọn những nghề mà các em thấy hào hứng* (We must help girls confidently and boldly choose careers that they are excited about) (No. 127, 10-22-2021). In Vietnamese, when using the auxiliary word “*hãy*” (let/should), the speaker implies a commitment to his or her participation (either individual or collective) in the action, together with the audience and the community. Example: *Hãy nhớ rằng, những gì trái với quy luật tự nhiên đều sẽ bị phá hủy* (Let us remember that anything that goes against the laws of nature will be destroyed) (No.3, 01-06-2021). Imperative sentences perform the impact function of discourse. The question clause is one of the typical sentence types in the consciousness structure of the interpersonal meaning level. Halliday (1994) said that the typical function of the interrogative clause is to ask, and from the questioner's perspective, it is an expression indicating that the questioner wants something answered. Questions have the least number of sentences in written journalistic discourse. Questions are only concentrated in interviews. Compared to news reports and essays, the number of interviews is small, so the number of questions is not high in the total number of sentences in the discourse. For example: *Chị nhận định thế nào về sự phổ biến của áo dài trong cuộc sống thường nhật hiện nay?* (What do you think about the popularity of ao dai in daily life today?) (No. 28, 03-05-2021). The interview questions demonstrate the interpersonal relationship between the questioner (reporter) and the interviewee. In journalistic discourse about women, the interviewed subjects are women of many different professions and ages. The questions in the interview are not only to seek feedback from the recipient but, more importantly, to confirm information, especially to create agreement on the issues being raised.

4.3. The expressive value of grammatical features

The expressive value of grammatical features is expressed through the perception of the problem. Fairclough advocates that "The ideological interest is in the authenticity claims, or claims to know- ledge, which are evidenced by modality forms" (Fairclough 2001: 108). According to Fairclough, in news discourse, modal elements are almost absent, and the verbs only have the meaning of reporting truth, events, and data. In these cases, the absence of modal elements is to demonstrate a view of the world with an objective and transparent view. Newspapers are an interesting case. "In news reports, reported happenings are generally represented as cat- egorical truths - facts" (Fairclough, 2001:108). In fact, surveying the grammatical system in journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021 gives results consistent with Fairclough's above statement. In news discourse, most of the statements are informational statements without evaluative modal elements. The expressiveness of grammar is expressed quite rarely in the command sentence structure with modal elements expressed through the auxiliary "hãy" (let/ should), in the following example: *Đừng giống đàn bà hay giống đàn ông, hãy giống chính mình* (Don't be like a woman or a man; let's be like yourself.) (No. 63, 05-26-2021). That is an earnest call and also a way of persuasion that quickly penetrates the listener's emotions and efficiently achieves the highest expressive effect.

5. Conclusion

Based on Lazar's Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis perspective and the most basic principles of Critical Discourse Analysis theory, precisely Fairclough's approach, as well as the use of grammatical analysis methods following Halliday's theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Grammar, the article clarifies the grammatical characteristics of journalistic discourse about women in Vietnamese Women Newspapers in 2021. The system of transitivity processes representing the world of experience in journalistic discourse about women focuses on material, relational, and verbal processes. The world of experience in journalistic discourse about women is the world of actual actions, events, and relationships connecting people, things, phenomena, and relationships between their properties. The world of experience in journalistic discourse is also the world of verbal processes. In journalistic discourse written about women, it is the characters' opinions, views, and thoughts about the issues being reported, mostly the thoughts and voices of women. It is also a means to help women express their views and opinions. The relational value of grammar is revealed through the choice of sentence modes, and this is the way for the speaker to influence the receiver through grammatical structure. It is found that declarative is the primary genre, providing information and news about topics related to women. To ensure the objectivity of the mass media, journalistic discourse about women has very few grammatical elements with expressive value.

Grammatical features such as the choice of process types in transitivity relationships and the use of statement types in journalistic discourse about women contribute to proving the value of discourse in the social context. Discourse is a social practice and also a reflection of that practice. The case of journalistic discourse written about women in the Vietnamese Women newspaper in 2021 shows that newspaper writers have a way of choosing grammatical means in discourse to express their power to control and direct public opinion about issues related to women through providing news, thereby contributing to shaping social ideology about women. These grammatical features were consistent with the news genre for newspapers while maintaining ample contextual conditions for reflecting journalists' perceptions of women and feminism. Researching the grammatical features in journalistic discourse written about women has applied significance in realizing the goals of journalism. That is to inform readers, influence public opinion through reporting to propagate and advocate views, guidelines, and policies on gender equality and feminism, and contribute to promoting an equal society between men and women in Vietnam.

Due to time constraints and the focus scope of the study, this research reveals some limitations that need to be addressed. The analysis of experiential meaning has just mentioned the transitivity processes in terms of counting frequency and commented on their significance. More elaboration on the participants and circumstances could be explored to maximise the meaning capacity of the transitivity verbs, through which there would be more opportunities for unveiling the hidden power of the writers. These realized limitations may prompt future research where more detailed analysis should be given to the transitivity processes with their constituents to produce a clause. Then, the explanation stage of the FCDA would see how these structures assist the reflection of social practice in the field of gender equality and feminism.

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