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| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

How Meanings Conflated into Verbs in Vietnamese: A Cognitive Perspective

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| **ABSTRACT**

This study looks into the complex patterns of conflation that Vietnamese verbs display, providing insight into the subtle interactions that exist between language, cognition, and culture. The study investigates the systematic combination of different conceptual categories, including Action, Cause, Manner, Motion, Path, Perception, Position, and Location, within Vietnamese verb forms. It is based on the theoretical frameworks of renowned linguists, including Goldberg's construction grammar, Jackendoff's semantic structures, and Talmy's lexicalization patterns. Through the use of a mixed-methods approach, the study extracts information from interviews with native speakers, elicitation tests, and corpus-based analysis. A thorough comprehension of the common conflation patterns and the cognitive processes that underlie them is made possible by the large corpus of data and empirical evidence from native speaker interactions. The results show a rich tapestry of internal conflation patterns, showing how different conceptual categories are conflated inside single verb forms. Further highlighting the persistent addition of more semantic aspects to verb structures are external conflation patterns, such as grammatical, construction, and category conflation. The results of the study advance our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms underpinning meaning construction as well as the cultural aspects affecting language use in Vietnamese contexts. Additionally, the knowledge acquired has useful applications in fields including language instruction, natural language processing, and cross-cultural communication.

| **KEYWORDS**

Conflation patterns; conceptual categories; argument structures; semantic elements

| **ARTICLE INFORMATION**

1. Introduction

The intricate relationship between language and cognition is exemplified by the deliberate blending of separate semantic elements, known as conflation patterns. These patterns entail the fusion of distinct characteristics or ideas, resulting in the formation of novel lexical entities or the alteration of preexisting lexical entities. Studying conflation patterns is very important in the field of lexicalization since it helps to understand how words get their meanings and semantic structures (Talmy 1985, 2000; Pinker 1989, 2013; Langacker 1987). Conflation patterns examine the systematic connections between meaning and surface aspects in language (Pinker 1989, 2013; Talmy 2000). Through the analysis of these patterns, researchers can acquire valuable knowledge about the cognitive processes involved in language production and comprehension. These patterns demonstrate the organized manner in which various semantic elements are merged and contribute to the overall meaning of words and phrases (Croft and Cruse 2004: 53).

Multiple research projects have investigated the patterns of conflation, enhancing our comprehension of this language phenomena. Talmy (2000) put up an all-encompassing theory on the patterns of lexicalization, which examines the merging of many pieces to create the meaning of basic verbs. Jackendoff (1983, 1990) explored the phenomenon of argument structure conflation and the patterns of conflation displayed by verbs. According to Jackendoff (1990: 29), the combination of these basic features inside words shows a tendency to merge or mix meanings. Fillmore (1970) presented the concept of frame semantics,

which provides a cognitive method for analyzing language and explains how mental frames contribute to the meaning of linguistic utterances. Fauconnier and Turner (2002) investigated the phenomenon of conceptual mixing and its significance in the formation of conflation patterns. These research have utilized many approaches, including as corpus-based analyses, elicitation experiments, and interviews with native speakers, to investigate the merging patterns and their consequences for language understanding and expression.

Although past research has made tremendous strides in expanding our understanding of conflation patterns, there are still some existing limits. Numerous studies have concentrated on a particular language or a restricted range of languages, sometimes disregarding cross-linguistic differences and universal patterns (Slobin 2004). Moreover, Bowerman and Choi (2003:149) contend that the comprehensive examination of the cognitive and cultural components that impact conflation patterns is lacking, resulting in incomplete knowledge regarding the interaction between language, cognition, and culture. Given these constraints, a novel research avenue is suggested: exploring the conflation patterns in the Vietnamese language using a thorough, data-centric methodology. Fawcett (2000: 240) argues that the semantic components discussed in different methods differentiate one group of words from another, as well as individual words from each other, through their unique combinations. This study seeks to elucidate the cognitive processes involved in meaning construction and the cultural factors that impact language usage in the Vietnamese context by analyzing the systematic combinations of semantic components in Vietnamese verbs.

To shed light on the complex interactions between language, cognition, and culture in the Vietnamese context, this study raises two important research questions that will guide the exploration of conflation patterns and their meaning.

1. What are the prevalent conflation patterns exhibited by Vietnamese verbs, and how do they combine different semantic components?
2. How do these conflation patterns in Vietnamese contribute to our understanding of the cognitive processes involved in meaning formation and the cultural factors influencing language usage?

2. Literature review

2.1. Theoretical background

The study of conflation models originated in the early 20th century, with the work of Hjelmslev (1961) and his concept of structural semantics. Hjelmslev's ideas laid the foundation for later research into how language encodes meaning through the systematic combination of semantic components. In the 1960s, Greimas (1966) further developed the field of structural semantics, introducing the concept of semiotic analysis, which considers the basic units of meaning, or semmes, that constitute complex linguistic structures. Fillmore (1970) made a significant contribution with his theory of frame semantics, which posits that linguistic expressions derive meaning from cognitive structures called frames that represent particular situations or scenarios. Fillmore (1970:63) states that the study of frame semantics should help us understand how language relates to experience.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Jackendoff (1983, 1990) and Talmy (1985, 2000) made significant progress in the study of confounding models. Jackendoff's work on semantic structure and the combination of argument structure shed light on how primitive concepts combine within lexical items to create specific meanings. Jackendoff (1990: 29) notes that the way these primitives are combined within lexical elements to produce certain meanings reveals conflation tendencies. Talmy's (1985, 2000) theory of lexicalization patterns explored how various conceptual elements, such as motion, path, and manner, are conflated within verbs across different languages. He asserts that conflation patterns involve the merging of distinct semantic components into a single linguistic expression (Talmy, 2000: 36).

Goldberg's (1995) constructional grammar approach also contributed significantly to the study of conflation patterns by examining how different semantic elements are integrated into grammatical structures. In the 2000s, researchers such as Pottier (1974), Fawcett (2000), Slobin (2004), Bowerman, and Choi (2003) further explored cognitive and cultural factors. influence the conflation model. Bowerman and Choi (2003:149) argue that the cognitive and cultural factors influencing conflation patterns have not been thoroughly explored, emphasizing the need for further research in the area. More recently, Fauconnier and Turner (2002) have contributed to the understanding of conflation patterns through their work on conceptual blending and its role in the formation of complex linguistic expressions.

In summary, the study of conflation patterns has grown significantly thanks to the contributions of researchers in diverse fields, including linguistics, cognitive science, and anthropology. Their collective reflections illuminate the complex relationships between language, cognition, and culture, as well as the systematic ways in which semantic components are combined in linguistic expressions. This rich theoretical foundation provides a solid framework for exploring conflation patterns and their implications for meaning formation and cross-linguistic analysis.

2.2. Cognitive linguistics

Cognitive linguistics is a theoretical and applied approach to the study of language that emerged in the late 20th century. It emphasizes the role of human cognition in the conceptualization and use of language. One of the key features of cognitive linguistics is the idea that language is an integral part of cognition, rather than an autonomous capacity distinct from other cognitive processes. This approach views language as an essential aspect of human cognition, deeply connected to our cognitive, motor, and conceptual systems.

Another central tenet of cognitive linguistics is the representational and experiential basis of language. Language is considered to originate from our embodied experiences, perceptions, and interactions with our physical and social environments. These embodied experiences shape our conceptual systems and, in turn, our linguistic representations. Cognitive linguistics focuses on how meaning is constructed through conceptual metaphors, metonymy, and other cognitive mechanisms that allow us to understand abstract concepts using concrete experiences. Furthermore, cognitive linguistics adopts a usage-based model, viewing language as a dynamic system that emerges from actual language use. Linguistic knowledge is shaped by our experiences with language in context, not by a set of predetermined, innate rules. This approach emphasizes the importance of studying language in its natural and contextual settings to understand its true nature and how it works.

In order to delve into how meanings are conflated into the verbs in Vietnamese, cognitive linguistics provides a valuable framework for analyzing the types of conflation exhibited by Vietnamese verbs. The study explores how to combine different semantic components such as action, cause, manner, motion, path, perception, position, and location in Vietnamese verbs, thereby revealing the cognitive processes underlying the formation of meaning. By adopting a cognitive linguistic perspective, the researcher can study whether these conflation patterns reflect the underlying experience and expression of language, as well as conceptual metaphors and metonymy that shape the linguistic expression of Vietnamese verbs. Usage-based cognitive linguistic models also allow research to examine how these conflation patterns emerge from actual language use and how they are shaped by factors such as culture and the context surrounding Vietnamese.

2.3 Theoretical frameworks

The theoretical frameworks explored in this study aim to provide a robust foundation for analyzing the complex conflation patterns exhibited by Vietnamese verbs. In order to offer a thorough and multidimensional method of examining the complex conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs, Jackendoff's semantic structures, Talmy's lexicalization patterns, and Goldberg's construction grammar have been combined into an integrated theoretical framework. The unified framework, which synthesizes these complementary theoretical perspectives, provides a strong lens through which to systematically examine the various ways that semantic elements, grammatical categories, and constructions are systematically conflated within Vietnamese verb forms. This process sheds light on the cognitive processes and cultural influences that underlie the formation of meaning in this language.

2.3.1. Jackendoff's semantic structures

Exploring conflation patterns plays an important role in exploring the complex interaction between semantic representations and linguistic expressions in Jackendoff's (1983, 1990) semantic structure. Conflation patterns describe how many conceptual aspects or semantic roles are combined or merged in a single linguistic element, such as a verb or verb phrase. In his review, Jackendoff examines the area of argument structure, in which semantic roles such as subject and object can be combined to simplify the representation of events or conditions. This theory also considers conflation patterns expressed by verbs, which exhibit multiple mental components in their meanings. For example, a word may conflate the trajectory of motion with the mode of transportation, or it may confuse the manner of an activity with its result. Jackendoff illuminates how speakers organize and group information when expressing complex actions or events by examining the construction of ideas and the cognitive implications of such conflation.

Applying Jackendoff's framework to the study of conflation between verb meanings can shed light on the systematic combination of semantic etymologies in Vietnamese verbs, thereby providing insight into the the cognitive process that underlies the formation of meaning. By analyzing conflation about argument structure in Vietnamese verbs, this study can explore how to combine distinct semantic roles such as agent, patient or tool to effectively express complex events. In addition, studying the characteristic blending patterns of verbs can show how conceptual categories such as motion, path, manner or causation are combined in a single vocabulary, reflecting the cognitive organization and linguistic encoding of these concepts in Vietnamese. This approach can shed light on the cognitive basis of meaning conflation, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of how Vietnamese people conceptualize and express complex events through language.

2.3.2. Talmy's lexicalization patterns

The importance of conflation patterns in understanding how languages encode movement events is emphasized by Talmy's concept of lexicalization patterns. Conflation occurs in satellite frame languages when the main verb is combined with the manner

and trajectory of the event to create a more concise description of the action. For example, in a satellite-structured language, a verb may include information about both the step and the direction of movement. In contrast, conflation takes a different form in languages with verb structures, where the method of movement is stored in the main verb and the path or direction is transmitted independently. Manner and path are treated as separate linguistic units, resulting in longer expressions for motion occurrences due to the division of motion components. It will be useful to understand how speakers conceptualize and encode information about motion events in different language systems by comparing differences in conflation patterns across languages.

Adopting the Talmy framework to analyze conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs can yield valuable insights into how the language lexicalizes motion events. Through examining the combination of path and manner components in Vietnamese transitive verbs, the researchers can discover specific lexical patterns used in this language. This analysis may reveal whether Vietnamese exhibits a tendency toward satellite framing, speech framing, or a unique combination of these patterns, thereby contributing to a better understanding of speech framing. typology and cross-linguistic variation in the encoding of motion events. Additionally, studying the cognitive implications of these types of conflation can shed light on how Vietnamese people conceptualize and represent movement-related information, providing insight into the language-language interface. awareness.

Additionally, research could explore cultural influences on the lexicalization of movement events by examining the prevalence of certain conflation patterns in Vietnamese and the relationships between them. their potential for cultural practices, values or attitudes. This approach can help us gain a deeper understanding of the interactions between language, cognition and culture and how they shape the linguistic encoding of motion events in Vietnamese, thereby shaping style, enriching our knowledge of the cognitive and cultural underpinnings of this language.

2.2.3. Goldberg's construction grammar
Goldberg's constructional grammar approach also made significant contributions to the study of conflation patterns. This theoretical framework examines how different semantic elements are integrated into grammatical structures to create specific constructions. The main area of interest is the conflation of argument structures, where distinct structures can combine or merge different semantic roles or arguments within a single verb.

Speakers can effectively communicate complex events or relationships by incorporating various participants and their roles, such as agent, subject, or recipient, into a unified linguistic expression. For example, the words chef and cook are used in the sentence: The chef prepared a delicious meal, indicating the extent to which multiple roles can be conflated in the context of a culinary event. By studying these patterns of argument structure conflation, researchers can gain insights into how speakers organize and group information when expressing complex actions or events, and the cognitive implications of such conflation.
Goldberg's constructional grammar approach provides a valuable framework for understanding how the conflation of semantic components contributes to the specific construction aspects of language. This perspective sheds light on the systematic ways in which speakers utilize different linguistic elements to convey meaning, highlighting the efficiency and expressiveness of language in encoding complex conceptual relationships within a single lexical unit or grammatical structure.

2.3.4. Verbal conflation analysis
A framework can be proposed for analyzing conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs, based on the information decomposed from the three theoretical frameworks provided, which is **verbal conflation analysis**. This framework offers a thorough perspective through the synthesis of important findings from construction grammar and cognitive linguistics. It makes use of the constructional method of examining how semantic aspects are methodically incorporated into grammatical structures, as well as the usage-based and experiential views of cognitive linguistics.

The fundamental idea of this framework is that language constructs and cognitive processes interact to produce conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs. Language is acknowledged as a fundamental component of cognition, profoundly ingrained in lived experiences and influenced by environmental and cultural influences. It is believed that conflation is an expression of the mental processes that underlie the formation of meaning and the effective encoding of intricate conceptual linkages into language structures.

Moreover, this framework offers a thorough method for comprehending the intricate relationship that shapes the conflation phenomena seen in Vietnamese verbs between cognitive processes, lexicalization patterns, and constructionaintegrationThrough conflated verb forms in the Vietnamese language, it provides a multifaceted view that takes into account the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural elements that underlie the production and expression of meaning.

2.4. Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework of cognitive linguistics, which emphasizes the interdependent interaction between language, cognition, and culture, serves as the foundation for this study on conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs. Through the mix of semantic roles and conceptual components inside Vietnamese verbs, Jackendoff's semantic structures shed light on how information is organized cognitively. Vietnamese motion event encoding may be investigated thanks to Talmy's lexicalizatipatterns, which provide a cross-linguistic viewpoint. By looking at how semantic elements are incorporated into grammatical structures, Goldberg's construction grammar enhances the analysis. Through this conceptual framework, the research seeks to identify common conflation patterns among Vietnamese verbs and investigates their role in advancing knowledge of the cognitive mechanisms and cultural factors influencing language use in Vietnamese contexts.
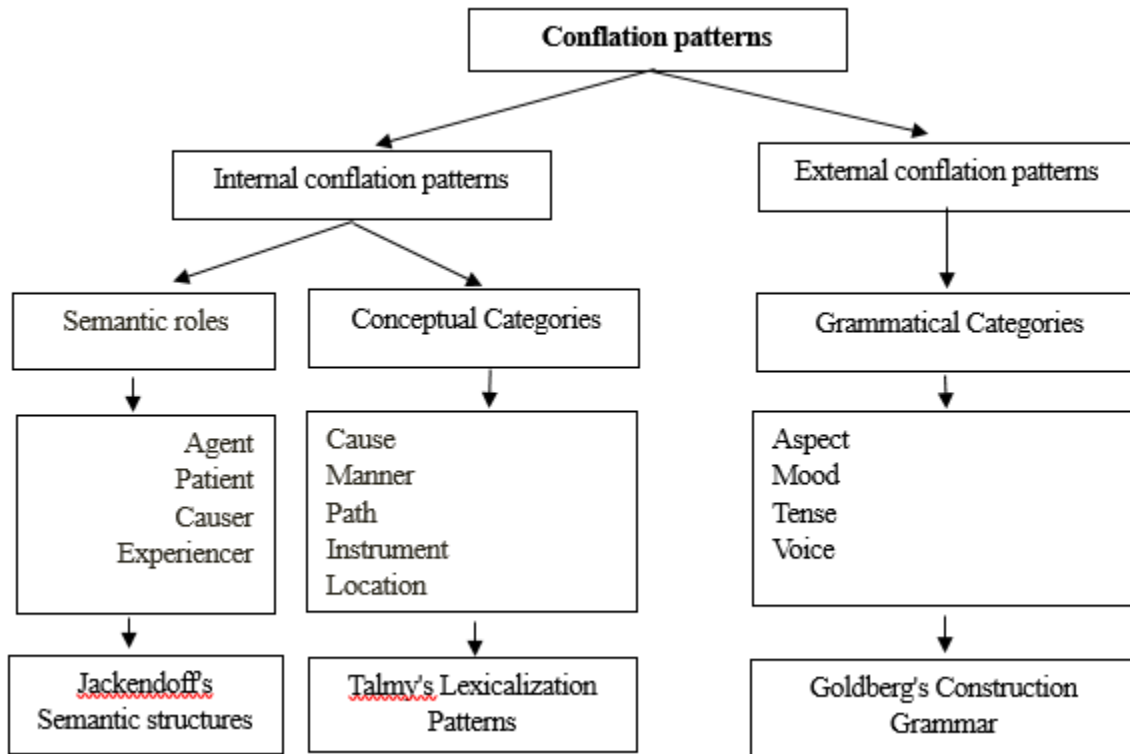
Figure 1. Conceptual framework

3. Methodology

3.1. Research methods

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively examine the semantic components of Vietnamese verbs and their conflation patterns. The research draws upon theoretical frameworks from prominent linguists such as Talmy's lexicalization patterns, Jackendoff's semantic structures, and Fillmore's frame semantics to guide the analysis and interpretation of the empirical data.

3.2. Data collection

The data collection involves a two-pronged approach:

- Corpus-based analysis: An extensive corpus of authentic Vietnamese writings spanning various genres and registers is utilized as a rich source of linguistic data. The corpus serves as the basis for in-depth scrutiny of verb usage and associated conceptual categories.
- Elicitation experiments and interviews: 20 native Vietnamese speakers participate in elicitation experiments where they are presented with sentences containing verbs and asked to identify and elucidate the intermingled semantic categories they perceive. Additionally, 50 semi-structured interviews are conducted with native speakers to gain a deeper understanding of their interpretations of conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs. The interviews aim to delve into the participants' cognitive processes and how they conceptualize meaning and navigate the complexities of verb formation.

3.3. Data analysis
The data analysis process involves the following steps:
- Corpus-based analysis: Systematic extraction and annotation of verb instances from the corpus, including their syntactic and semantic aspects.
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis: Identification of recurrent patterns of conceptual category conflation through the corpus-based data.
- Elicitation experiment analysis: Coding and examination of the native speaker responses to validate the corpus-based findings and uncover new information about the distribution of conflation patterns across various linguistic settings.
- Interview analysis: Thematic analysis of the participant interviews to reveal their perceptions of conflation patterns and their justifications for interpreting particular verb constructions.
- Integration of findings: The results from the corpus-based analysis, elicitation experiments, and interviews are triangulated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the semantic components and conflation patterns within Vietnamese verbs.

4. Finding and discussion
4.1. Internal conflation patterns
An internal conflation pattern is denoted by the notation **V [feature 1 + feature 2],** where the square brackets [ ] represent the conflation pattern, and the plus sign + indicates that it is an internal conflation, combining different semantic features into a single verb form. The key characteristic of internal conflation patterns is the merging of distinct semantic components or aspects within a single linguistic unit, typically a verb. Table 1 below summarizes the different internal conflation patterns identified and the number of verbs exhibiting each pattern found in the data.

Table 1. Internal conflation patterns in Vietnamese

Internal conflation patterns							
Internal conflation of semantic roles			Internal conflation of conceptual categories				
Agent-Patient	Experiencer-Theme	Causer-Inchoative	Manner-action	Instrument-Action	Locative-Action	Path-Action	Cause-Action
13	70	93	153	99	30	38	88

4.1.1. Internal conflation of semantic roles
This section discusses the inherent conflation of semantic roles in Vietnamese verbs. It analyzes the linguistic phenomenon in which different semantic roles or participants involved in an action are combined or merged into a single speech form. Specifically, it identifies and tests three patterns: agent-patient, experiencer-theme, and causer-inchoative. To analyze these patterns, this section provides examples of Vietnamese verb usage and explains how to merge multiple semantic roles into a single verb, allowing for concise and effective communication in complex events or situations. This analysis aims to explore the systematic ways in which Vietnamese speakers conceptualize and linguistically encode different participants and their roles in a verbal expression.

a. V [Agent+ Patient]
The Vietnamese language exhibits a distinctive linguistic phenomenon known as the **V**[Agent + Patient] conflation pattern. In this pattern, the semantic roles of the agent (the entity performing the action) and the patient (the entity undergoing or affected by the action) are systematically combined into a single verb form. This characteristic allows Vietnamese speakers to concisely convey complex events involving both an agent and a patient without requiring additional grammatical structures. Consider the following example:

(1)   Anh ta   **mua**   sách
        He   buy   book
        He bought a book.

In this sentence, the subject *anh ta* (he) simultaneously serves as both the agent performing the act of buying and the patient receiving the book. Thus, the sentence can be interpreted as 'he bought a book' and 'he gave it to himself,' with the two semantic roles conflated into the single verb *mua* (to buy).

The **V**[Agent + Patient] conflation pattern exemplifies the efficiency and succinctness of the Vietnamese language. By merging these two crucial semantic roles into one verb, Vietnamese speakers can express a wide range of events and actions using minimal grammatical elements, resulting in unparalleled concision and expressiveness. The data analyzed in this study identified thirteen Vietnamese verbs exhibiting this conflation pattern, including *mua* (to buy), *đọc* (to read), and *học* (to study/learn), etc... In each

case, the verb encapsulates both the entity performing the action and the entity undergoing it within a single compact linguistic unit.

From a cognitive linguistics perspective, the **V**[Agent + Patient] conflation pattern in Vietnamese provides insights into the speakers' conceptualization and linguistic encoding of events involving multiple participants. Cognitive linguistics views language as an integral part of cognition, deeply rooted in embodied experiences and shaped by cultural influences. The systematic conflation of agent and patient roles within verb forms suggests that Vietnamese speakers perceive and mentally represent these semantic roles as inherently intertwined aspects of certain events, rather than as distinct and separable components.

Moreover, the prevalence of the **V**[Agent + Patient] pattern in Vietnamese aligns with the broader typological tendencies observed in many East and Southeast Asian languages, such as Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese. These language families exhibit a similar satellite-framed typology, in which the verb encodes the action or manner, while the agent and patient roles are combined into a single verb form. This cross-linguistic parallel suggests that the Vietnamese data reflects a shared cognitive and cultural tendency within these language groups to conceptualize and express certain types of events in a more compact and efficient manner.

By adopting a cognitive linguistics framework and considering cross-linguistic typological patterns, this study offers a more comprehensive understanding of the **V**[Agent + Patient] conflation in Vietnamese. It not only describes the linguistic phenomenon but also sheds light on the cognitive processes underlying meaning construction and the potential cultural influences shaping language use in Vietnamese contexts. Furthermore, this approach opens up avenues for future comparative research to explore the cognitive and cultural factors that contribute to the prevalence of similar conflation patterns across different language environments.

b. V [Experiencer + Theme]
The second conflation pattern explored in this section is **V** [Experiencer + Theme] in which a single verb form conflates the roles of the experiencer (the entity experiencing a psychological state) and the theme (the stimulus evoking that state). Like the previous pattern, this pattern allows Vietnamese speakers to express complex mental experiences with remarkable economy and expressiveness. Through the lens of cognitive linguistics, this conflation reflects the cognitive processes underlying meaning construction and the cultural influences shaping language use in Vietnamese contexts.

Consider the verb *ghét* (to hate), as in the sentence:
(2)   Ông ấy   rất   **ghét**   con   chó   đó.
       He   very   hate   animal   dog   that
       He really hates that dog.

In this example, the verb *ghét* simultaneously encodes the experiencer *ông ấy* (he) and the theme *con chó đó* (that dog). The act of hating and the object of hatred are conflated within a single verb form, eliminating the need for separate lexical or grammatical elements to specify these distinct semantic roles.

This conflation pattern resonates with the principles of cognitive linguistics, which views language as an integral part of cognition, grounded in embodied experiences and shaped by cultural contexts. The conflation of experiencer and theme roles in *ghét* suggests that Vietnamese speakers conceptualize these semantic components as inherently intertwined aspects of psychological events, rather than distinct and separable entities. Moreover, this linguistic encoding reflects the cognitive processes through which subjective experiences are structured and expressed in the Vietnamese cognitive system. The intimate relationship between language and the conception of mental states in Vietnamese culture is manifested in this efficient and expressive conflation pattern.

(3)   Tôi   rất   **nhớ**   ngày   xưa.
       I   very   remember   day   old
       I really miss/remember the old days.

In this sentence, the Vietnamese verb *nhớ* conflates the experiencer *tôi* (I) with the theme *ngày xưa* (the old days), encoding both the act of remembering and the object of recollection within a single verb form.

Thanks to these aforesaid aspects of **V**[Experiencer + Theme] patterns, it is recognized to be a rather common linguistic trait in the Vietnamese language. Besides the verbs *ghét* and *nhớ* in the examples above, the data shows that there are 70 verbs that denote this linguistic aspect. Interestingly, **V**[Experiencer + Theme] also aligns with typological observations across various East

and Southeast Asian languages, such as Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese, suggesting shared cognitive and cultural influences that shape the linguistic expression of subjective experiences in these linguistic contexts.

Through a cognitive linguistic approach, we can uncover the cognitive processes underlying meaning construction in Vietnamese, as well as the cultural factors that shape the expression of psychological experiences and mental states. The conflation of experiencer and theme roles reflects the cognitive mechanisms through which speakers conceptualize and encode their subjective experiences, drawing upon embodied experiences and cultural conceptualizations. Furthermore, this analysis of **V**[Experiencer + Theme] contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the cognitive and cultural underpinnings of language use across diverse linguistic contexts. The Vietnamese data aligns with broader tendencies in the linguistic encoding of psychological experiences and mental states, corroborating the generalizability of the findings and shedding light on the intricate interplay between language, cognition, and culture.

c. V [Causer + Inchoative]
Another conflation pattern in Vietnamese known as the **V**[Causer + Inchoative], which involves the systematic merging of the causative aspect, which represents the cause or instigation of an action, and the inchoative aspect, which denotes the beginning or initiation of an event or process, into a single verb form. By adopting this conflation, Vietnamese speakers can concisely and effectively express complex causal relationships and situations where one entity or action triggers the onset of another event.

A salient example of the **V**[Causer + Inchoative] pattern can be found in the Vietnamese verb *mở* (to open), as illustrated in the sentence:
(4)   Thằng bé   **mở**   cửa
         Child   open   door
         The child opened the door.

In this instance, the verb *mở* consists of both the causative element, where the child is the agent responsible for initiating the opening action, and the inchoative element, which represents the door's transition from a closed state to an open state. The data analysis phase of the study identified 93 Vietnamese verbs exhibiting this causer-inchoative conflation, including *đông* (to freeze), *đóng* (to close), *tắt* (to turn off), and *mài* (to grind), etc.. The research results show that the prevalence of the **V**[Causer + Inchoative] pattern in Vietnamese verbs is noteworthy, as it reflects the language's ability to efficiently convey intricate causal relationships and processes within a single lexical unit. Through the combination of the causative and inchoative aspects into a unified verb form, Vietnamese speakers can express the entire causal event without the need for separate grammatical structures or lexical items, thereby enhancing linguistic economy and communicative effectiveness.

Examining this linguistic trait in global contexts, we can see that the **V**[Causer + Inchoative] conflation pattern in Vietnamese also matches to typological observations across various East and Southeast Asian languages, such as Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese. These language families exhibit similar tendencies to conflate causative and inchoative components within verb forms, suggesting potential shared cognitive and cultural influences shaping the linguistic expression of causal events in these linguistic contexts.

From a cognitive linguistics perspective, the analysis of the **V**[Causer + Inchoative] pattern provides insights into the cognitive processes underlying meaning construction in Vietnamese. By revealing how speakers systematically combine distinct semantic components within verb forms, this conflation pattern sheds light on the cognitive mechanisms involved in conceptualizing and encoding causal relationships. Moreover, the analysis of the **V**[Causer + Inchoative] conflation pattern in Vietnamese also alights with the interconnectedness of language, cognition, and culture, viewing language as an integral part of cognitive processes. Then, we can investigate how the systematic combination of semantic components within Vietnamese verbs reflects the cognitive processes involved in meaning formation and the cultural influences shaping language use in Vietnamese contexts. Last but not least, cognitive linguistics' usage-based model, which posits that linguistic knowledge emerges from actual language use, allows us to examine how conflation patterns like **V**[Causer + Inchoative] emerge from real-world communicative situations and how they are shaped by cultural and contextual factors surrounding Vietnamese language use. This approach can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the cognitive and cultural underpinnings of the complex interactions between language and thought in Vietnamese linguistic communities.

4.1.2. Internal conflation of conceptual categories
This section will investigate the phenomenon of Vietnamese language use in which a single verb can represent several conceptual categories of an action, including the style, tool, place, or route connected to the action. Also, the study intends to shed insight on how Vietnamese language users are able to effectively transmit complex events and information utilizing compact verb forms that incorporate multiple conceptual categories by looking at these internal conflation patterns. Moreover, this approach clarifies the

mental processes and cultural factors that influence the Vietnamese language's expressiveness and semantics. Gaining insight into these internal conflation patterns advances our knowledge of how language, cognition, and culture interact in the Vietnamese setting.

a. V [Manner +Action]
Vietnamese is distinguished by the capacity of a single verb to combine the manner and action components of an event into a single lexical unit. Vietnamese speakers are able to accurately convey how an action is performed without the need for further adverbial descriptors by using this manner-action conflation design. When the diverse semantic components are transparently combined in the fused verb form, communication becomes clear and efficient. A prime example is the verb *nhảy* (to jump), which conflates the physical act of propelling oneself into the air with the specific manner of that motion. Consider:

(5)   Con   mèo   **nhảy**   qua   hàng rào
        Animal cat   jump   across   fence
        The cat jumps over the fence.

In this instance, *nhảy* captures both the cat's upward speed and its leaping style of clearing the fence. Study results showed that 153 verbs in Vietnamese, such as *nằm* (to lie), *chạy* (to run), *bò* (to crawl), and *nổi* (to float), etc..., showed this productive manner-action conflation pattern. These conflated verb forms allow speakers to describe events concisely and vividly without the need for separate manner phrases.

This manner-action conflation illustrates how Vietnamese speakers understand and verbally encode events, according to cognitive linguistics theory. Therefore, the consistent merging of manner and action components into single verbs indicates that Vietnamese speakers understand these semantic concepts as part of a given occurrence rather than as discrete elements that need to be coded differently. Furthermore, when language is seen as evolving from real linguistic experiences in the usage-based model of cognitive linguistics, the examination of the frequency and distribution of manner-action conflation in many settings can help illuminate how this pattern emerges from language usage in everyday life and is influenced by culturally particular conceptions of experiences and occurrences.

The aforesaid analysis helps us conclude that the manner-action conflation patterns in Vietnamese verbs correspond with notable typological trends reported in a variety of languages. Drawing on the rich body of research on the linguistics of motion events, Vietnamese demonstrates features typical of satellite-framed languages, which frequently mix up motion and manner in the primary verb. Thus, the Vietnamese data supports the suggested typology by methodically combining manner and action into compact verbal units and grouping with other East/Southeast Asian languages such as Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese. Various cross-linguistic similarities point to common cognitive tendencies in the way various language groups perceive and encode motion events, supporting the theory that the Vietnamese conflation patterns are a result of broader cognitive processes that underlie meaning production.

b. V[Instrument +Action]
The linguistic trait emphasizes the distinct expressive abilities of language: the idea of **V**[Instrument + Action] conflation. This pattern entails combining the meaning of the action verb with the meaning of the instrumental or classifier verb into a single verb form. Vietnamese is only one of several languages from East and Southeast Asia that have this feature: certain classifiers give verbs new meanings that are connected to the tool or instrument used to perform the action when they are coupled with other words. This pattern of conflation is clearly demonstrated by the Vietnamese word *viết* (to write), which implies holding a writing tool, usually a pen, even if its primary meaning is the act of writing. In order to create this link between the instrument and the action, the classifier *bút* (pen) is essential. Take a look at this example:

(6)   Lan   **viết**   thư   cho   mẹ
        Lan   write   letter   give   mother
        Lan wrote a letter to her mother.

In this sentence, the verb *viết* denotes the act of writing as well as the usefulness of utilizing a pen for that purpose. Vietnamese speakers are able to communicate actions using certain instruments in a clear and effective manner because to this pattern of conflation. The comprehensive system of classifiers in Vietnamese, which classify nouns according to their form, size, or function, is partly responsible for the frequent prevalence of this linguistic feature. The data analysis of this study identified 99 Vietnamese verbs that display this pattern of instrument-action conflation, such as *khâu* (to sew), sơn (to paint), and *dệt* (to weave), etc... Therefore, this phenomenon is evaluated to efficiently and adaptably enable Vietnamese speakers to convey complex thoughts utilizing succinct verbal forms, as seen from the standpoint of cognitive linguistics. This is, Vietnamese speakers accomplish

linguistic benefits and improve expressive strength by incorporating the instrument within the verb, without the need for extra words or structures to represent the instrumental component separately.

The Vietnamese data provides notable typological insights from the large literature on motion verbs, complementing this research with general trends seen in other East and Southeast Asian languages. Many of the languages in this region show similar patterns of confounding instrumental or classificatory elements with verbs, suggesting that related cognitive and cultural processes influence how actions and their instrumentalities are encoded in language. In addition, this typological resemblance points to a shared cognitive predisposition in these language groups to communicate and understand some kinds of occurrences more succinctly and effectively. These languages show a cognitive predisposition for condensing several semantic features into a single linguistic unit by including the instrumental component in the verb form. This may be a reflection of cultural norms that place an emphasis on pragmatic communication and concision.

c. V [Location +Action]
The linguistic pattern of **V**[Location + Action] in Vietnamese provides insights into how speakers conceptualize and encode spatial information through language. This pattern involves combining a verb with a specific classifier to indicate the location or direction of the action denoted by the verb. Through this conflation, the verb takes on additional locative semantics, enhancing its contextual specificity and expressive depth. For instance, location-action conflation occurs when the verb *tựa* (to lean) is paired with distinct classifiers, such as *tường* (wall). The classifier *tường* in *tựa vào tường* indicates that the leaning movement is directed towards a wall. This makes it possible for speakers to accurately portray the leaning event's direction and spatial arrangement.

Moreover, this pattern illustrates how spatial awareness is methodically ingrained in Vietnamese language structures from the standpoint of cognitive linguistics. According to cognitive linguistics, language is closely related to cognitive functions like spatial thinking and is rooted in embodied experiences. Therefore, Vietnamese speakers conceive spatial linkages and trajector/landmark arrangements, then smoothly integrate this conceptualization into compact verb forms, as seen by the **V**[Location + Action] conflation. Furthermore, the usage-based paradigm in cognitive linguistics offers additional explanatory power. It makes the argument that language knowledge is acquired via real language usage in particular settings and circumstances. So, it is possible to uncover how this pattern develops from pragmatic spatial language usage and is influenced by cultural conceptions of space by analyzing the frequency and distribution of location-action conflation. The data analysis identified 30 Vietnamese verbs exhibiting this locative-action conflation, including *leo* (to climb), *lọt* (to enter), *bò* (to crawl) and *băng* (to slide), ect. The robust productivity of this pattern underscores its significance as a systematic linguistic phenomenon grounded in spatial cognition.

By using the wealth of research on motion verb typology, one may validate this approach by placing the Vietnamese data in a more comprehensive cross-linguistic framework. Languages have been classified according to the way in which they often mix up motion information such as Path and Manner. Similar tendencies may be found in other satellite-framed East/Southeast Asian languages, such as Thai, Mandarin, and Japanese, with regard to the location-action conflation in Vietnamese. This implies that the results represent broader trends in the conceptualization and encoding of spatial linkages and trajectories within various language communities.

d. V[Path + Action]
V[Path + Action] - the conflation of path and action into single verbs - is one of the most notable linguistic phenomena in Vietnamese. These verbs encode both the activity being performed and the particular path or direction associated with that action simultaneously. This pattern enables Vietnamese speakers to convey complex semantic information in a clear and expressive manner with just one lexical term. The capacity to communicate path and action components simultaneously without the need for distinct words or structures is crucial; instead, the components are combined into cohesive verbal forms. For instance, the verb *vào* (to enter) confuses the action of entering with the route from an outside to an inside space. The verb *lên* (to ascend) combines an upward trajectory with the activity of climbing. The distinct journey and action meanings of the verbs are nevertheless clearly discernible via their conflation. Thus, path-action conflation frequently demonstrates iconicity, where verb forms reflect the motion or course they indicate, improving understanding.

In Vietnamese, this conflation pattern is quite fruitful. The information showed that 38 verbs, including *vào* and *lên*, as well as *đến* (to arrive), *lại* (to return/repeat), *ra* (to exit/go out), and *xuống* (to go down/descend), displayed path-action conflation semantics. As a result, Vietnamese speakers may express complicated motion events fully semantically in a single verb form, doing away with the necessity for separate verbs to express path and action. As so, it simplifies verbal representation without sacrificing expressive potency. Examining this pattern provides an understanding of how Vietnamese speakers perceive and represent motion and spatial data. The integration of path and action inside verbs provides insight into the language-cognition-culture interaction in the Vietnamese context by indicating that the cognitive system regards these as intrinsically related rather than separate components.

Noticeably, the large body of typological research on motion verb conflation patterns in many languages supports and validates the verb-framed languages, which often encode manner and route independently. Vietnamese language tendencies to systematically combine path and action into single verbs are similar to those of verb-framed East/Southeast Asian languages, such as Thai, Mandarin, and Japanese. These cross-linguistic similarities suggest that different language groups' conceptualization and encoding of motion events may be influenced by common cognitive processes.

To sum up, this conflation pattern sheds light on how Vietnamese speakers linguistically shape and organize spatial and motion information according to their cognitive representations, as seen through the lens of cognitive linguistics. The methodical conflation of path and action is indicative of a cognitive tendency to view both elements as inherently connected parts of motion occurrences, as opposed to distinct semantic components. Thus, examining these linguistic patterns offers a useful insight into the linguistic-cognitive relationship and its cultural foundation.

e. V[Cause + Action]

Vietnamese verb cause-action conflation analysis sheds light on the cognitive mechanisms underpinning meaning formation as well as the relationship between language, cognition, and culture. From the standpoint of cognitive linguistics, this language pattern shows how Vietnamese speakers do not divide the cause and the action into separate semantic components, but instead conceive and linguistically encode causal interactions as unified notions. From cognitive linguistic perspectives, the speakers of Vietnamese employ cognitive mechanisms to mentally understand and verbally portray causal events as indivisible units of meaning, which is reflected in the cause-action conflation pattern. Then, the Vietnamese cognitive system views the cause and the action that follows as inherently linked parts, fusing them into a single verb form, as opposed to viewing them as distinct concepts.

88 Vietnamese verbs, including *cho phép* (to allow), *để* (to let), *bắt* (to force), *khiến* (to compel), *mời* (to invite), and *dẫn* (to lead), were found to display cause-action conflation in the data analysis. The word *khiến* is a notable example; it combines the action carried out by another entity with the causal sense of making or compelling, as in the following sentence:

(7)	Nó	**khiến**	cả	căn phòng	đứng	lên
	He	force	all	room	stand	up

He forced everyone to stand up.

In this example, the verb *khiến* successfully expresses the idea that the subject is the motivation behind the deed that other people perform. Vietnamese speakers are able to convey causal relationships succinctly and efficiently by combining the cause and action components into unified verb forms, therefore. This eliminates the requirement for distinct lexical items or grammatical structures to define the cause and subsequent action separately. The cognitive concepts of efficiency and pragmatism, which cognitive linguistics asserts are essential to language usage, are reflected in this linguistic economy and expressive capacity.

The analysis shows that these patterns seen in East and Southeast Asian languages, including Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese are consistent with this pattern in the Vietnamese data, which can support this current study with typological insights from the literature on motion verbs. Similar patterns of confounding causative components with verbs are seen throughout all language families, indicating shared cognitive and cultural implications for the conceptualization and linguistic encoding of causal events in various linguistic settings.

4.2. External conflation patterns

In Vietnamese, there are patterns of external conflation that combine several grammatical elements and lexical aspects into a single linguistic utterance, usually a verb or verb phrase. This phenomenon adds extra information to a verb by methodically including aspects that are not immediately related to its main meaning. The pattern of conflation is indicated by **V[Feature 1 # Feature 2]**, where Feature 1 and Feature 2 are the conflated grammatical and lexical components, and # stands for external conflation.

Table 2. External conflation patterns

External conflation patterns				
Grammatical conflation			Lexical conflation	
Tense and action	Aspect/ mood And action	Voice and action	Multiple function words	Multiple category words

4.2.1. Grammatical conflation

A distinctive characteristic of Vietnamese is the linguistic phenomenon where different grammatical categories are conflated or merged into a single verb form. This section explores how tense, aspect, mood, and voice are systematically combined, enabling Vietnamese speakers to convey complex meanings concisely. Investigating these conflation patterns offers insights into the cognitive processes involved in linguistic encoding and reveals the language's unique expressive capabilities. By analyzing how multiple grammatical notions are integrated, this study enhances our understanding of Vietnamese's systematic representation of events and situations through compact verbal structures.

a. V[Tense # Action]

Vietnamese's external conflation pattern **V**[Tense # Action] exemplifies the language's intrinsic connection with cognitive, social, and cultural contexts. From a cognitive linguistics perspective, this pattern sheds light on how Vietnamese speakers conceptualize and linguistically encode temporal information. Rather than relying on dedicated grammatical markers or morphological changes, tense is systematically incorporated into the verb form itself, suggesting that Vietnamese speakers perceive tense as an inherent aspect of the action, rather than as a separate grammatical category**.** Without any additional markers or modifications, this verb form can be used to express different tenses.

(8)	Hôm qua	tôi	**đi**	làm.
	Yesterday	I	go	work
	Yesterday, I went to work.			

In this example, the verb *đi* is externally conflated with the past tense, signifying an action that occurred previously. The time expression *hôm qua* (yesterday) provides the contextual cue that clarifies the past tense reference.

The way that tense and action are tightly integrated inside verb forms is consistent with the theory of cognitive linguistics, which holds that language is an essential component of cognition that is influenced by cultural contexts and embodied experiences. Thus, Vietnamese speakers mix the action and its time component into a single conceptual unit, a mental representation and verbal expression of temporal connections that is reflected in the conflation pattern. Moreover, the usage-based paradigm of cognitive linguistics is highlighted by the reliance on context to understand the correct tense reference in these confused forms. Language is said to be acquired by real language usage in particular circumstances and situations, as opposed to following a preconceived set of rules. **V**[Tense # Action] forms emphasize the dynamic and context-sensitive aspect of language usage by relying on interlocutors' mutual comprehension, adverbial phrases, and situational clues.

The analysis of Vietnamese verb conflation, based on typological observations, aligns with a broader cross-linguistic picture of East and Southeast Asian languages like Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Japanese. This suggests that shared cultural and cognitive factors may influence the cognitive processes involved in conceptualizing and encoding temporal relationships. This cognitive linguistics framework and cross-linguistic typological observations contribute to a deeper understanding of the cognitive processes involved in meaning construction and the cultural factors shaping language use. It highlights the interplay between language, cognition, and culture, and how these intersections manifest in Vietnamese verb conflation patterns.

b. V[Aspect/ Mood # Action]

In Vietnamese, aspect and mood are tightly merged into a single lexical word using the pattern V[Aspect/Mood # Action], exhibiting a linguistic phenomenon known as conflation. The temporal perspective and the speaker's attitude toward the activity can both be subtly expressed using this pattern. Consider the examples and analysis in which the main aspectual characteristics that are conflated into Vietnamese verbs.

First, the perfective aspect represents an action as a complete whole, emphasizing its termination or conclusion in the past. It is conflated with the indicative mood through the auxiliary verb *đã* as seen in:

(9)	Gia đình tôi	**đã**	**đi**	du lịch	năm ngoái.
	My family	[PERF]	go	travel	last year.
	My family went traveling last year.				

In this instance, *đã* conflates the indicative mood and the perfective aspect with the verb *đi* (to go). It indicates that the journey was finished in full some time ago, namely last year. The action's finality and totality are emphasized by the perfective aspect, while its objective assertion is presented by the indicative mood.
Second, the progressive aspect portrays an action as ongoing or in progress at the reference time. It is conflated with the indicative mood through the auxiliary verb *đang*, as exemplified by.

(10) Hiện tại, em tôi   **đang**   **học**   tiếng Pháp.
Currently   my sibling   [PROG]   learn   French.
Currently, my sibling is learning French.

The indicative mood and the verb *học* (to learn) are combined with the progressive aspect in this example by *đang*. It communicates the idea that learning French is an ongoing process that is not yet finished. The indicative mood portrays the action as a factual statement about the present, whereas the progressive element captures the activity's chronological continuity and vitality.

Finally, the prospective aspect represents an action, which is anticipated or intended to occur in the future, without specifying its completion. It is conflated with the indicative mood through the auxiliary verb *sẽ*, illustrated by an example below.

(11) Năm tới   công ty chúng tôi   **sẽ**   **mở**   một   chi nhánh   mới.
Next year   our company [PROSP]   open   a   branch   new
Next year, our company will open a new branch.

In this sentence, *sẽ* combines the indicative mood and the prospective aspect with the verb *mở* (to open). It indicates that the launch of a new branch is something that is scheduled or intended to occur in the future (next year), but it doesn't specify when or how long it will take. The indicative mood portrays the action as a factual declaration of the company's objectives, while the prospective aspect concentrates on the action's future orientation.

In short, these patterns explore how Vietnamese speakers cognitively arrange and linguistically encode rich conceptual intricacies related to events, circumstances, and viewpoints via the lens of cognitive linguistics. Cognitive preferences for succinct yet expressive representations based on bodily experiences are reflected in the confusion. This study sheds light on the cognitive processes and cultural factors behind the distinctive expressive dynamics of the Vietnamese language by integrating linguistic data with ideas from motion verb typologies.

c. V[Voice # Action]
V[Voice # Action]is a prominent linguistic phenomenon in Vietnamese, where the action and the voice (either active or passive) are combined into a single verb form. This conflation pattern's main feature is that it enables Vietnamese speakers to convey both the voice and the action without requiring distinct verb forms or explicit grammatical markers. The markers *bị* and *được* are frequently employed in conventional Vietnamese grammar to denote the passive and active voices, respectively. In order to indicate the voice of a sentence, these indicators are usually positioned prior to the main verb. Voice-action conflation, on the other hand, allows for the omission of these voice indicators, leaving the main verb alone to convey both the action and the voice, leading to a more succinct and effective language expression.

(12) Ngôi nhà   này   **xây**   năm ngoái.
House   this   build   last year
This house was built last year.

In this sentence, the verb *xây* (to build) is used without the passive voice marker *bị*, but the context suggests that the sentence is in the passive voice, meaning "This house was built last year." The verb *xây* alone conveys both the action of building and the passive voice, indicating that the house was constructed by someone else.

(13) Người đàn ông   **mở**   cửa.
Man   open   door
The man opened the door.

Although the active voice marker *được* is not used with the verb *mở* (to open), the context suggests that the statement is in the active voice. The verb *mở* denotes both the act of opening and the active voice, signifying that the man is the agent responsible for opening the door.

Vietnamese's concision in conveying complex concepts is exemplified by the occurrence of voice-action conflation. Vietnamese speakers can convey complex thoughts and relationships without the use of extra grammatical structures or distinct verb forms by merging the voice and action into a single verb form. This linguistic characteristic illustrates the Vietnamese language's adaptability and flexibility, enabling speakers to make the most of their language resources and customize their expressions to their particular context and communication demands. Vietnamese speakers are able to efficiently compress complicated information while

retaining clarity and grammatical precision thanks to voice-action conflation, which is context-dependent and impacted by a variety of linguistic and pragmatic factors.

5.2.2. Lexical conflation

Lexical conflation studies how Vietnamese words can be in more than one lexical category, enabling different functions and meanings to be expressed in a single form. This linguistic trait highlights the language's conciseness and versatility. Vietnamese speakers can communicate complex concepts effectively by reducing unnecessary terminology and improving verbal economy by using a single lexical phrase in several functions. In addition, this characteristic illustrates how the Vietnamese language and the cognitive, social, and cultural elements influencing its distinctive expression are inextricably linked. Lexical conflation research sheds light on Vietnamese's expressive potential and speakers' mental processes by demonstrating how the language makes the most of its limited word repertoire to attain communicative efficacy. This pattern clarifies the interaction between pragmatic and environmental factors and linguistic form that contribute to the language's

a. V[Function # Action]

Vietnamese is a language with exceptional flexibility. One of its linguistic aspects is the phenomenon of lexical conflation, in which individual words are able to fulfill several grammatical functions, circumventing the strict part-of-speech distinctions present in a great deal of other languages. Therefore, Vietnamese words exhibit remarkable adaptability that enables speakers to communicate intricate thoughts and relationships with a relatively small vocabulary by adopting diverse functions while preserving the same lexical form in different sentence settings. The word *để* (in order to) is a case in point, which conflates several functions into itself.

Prepositional function

The term *để* is a perfect illustration of the **V**[Function # Action] in Vietnamese. Although *để* looks like a straightforward preposition at first glance, its usefulness goes much beyond that traditional purpose. Similar to the English prepositions for and to, *để* can be employed to indicate the intention or goal of a circumstance or action. For example, the phrase "để" introduces the speaker's action and acts as a preposition to link the main clause with the intended outcome in the sentence below.

(14)   Tôi   học   tiếng Anh   **để**   giao tiếp
         I   *learn*   *English*   [FUN]   *communicate*
         I study English to communicate.

Infinitive marker function

In the same way that *to* does in English infinitive verb phrases is also how this word also serves as an infinitive marker. *Để* in Vietnamese indicates the desired or intended action to be carried out when it is used in this way, preceding an infinitive verb. The infinitive verb *thăm* (to visit) is introduced by *để* in a sentence such as an example

(15)   Tôi   muốn   đi   Hà Nội   **để**   thăm   gia đình"
         I   *wanr*   *go*   *Hanoi*   [FUN]   *visit*   *family*
         I want to visit my family in Hanoi.

Subordinate marker function

In Vietnamese, *để* has additional functions beyond its preposition and infinitive marker responsibilities. It can also function as a subordinator, establishing a subordinate phrase that conveys the intention or outcome of the main clause. *Để* is similar to English subordinators like so that or in order to; you can find it in sentences like the following example.

(16)   Hãy   làm việc chăm chỉ   **để**   thành công
         Work   *hard*   [FUN]   *succeed*
         Work hard so that you can succeed;

In this sentence where the subordinate clause *để thành công* (so that you can succeed) is connected to the main clause by the subordinator *để*.

This linguistic trait can be explained that Vietnamese is a flexible and efficient language, as seen by the ability of its words to combine many grammatical functions inside a single lexical form. Thanks to this pattern, Vietnamese speakers may convey complicated concepts and relationships with a compact linguistic structure by assigning several functions to a single word, which reduces the need for extra grammatical markers or vocabulary items. This merging of roles not only improves the language's expressiveness but also captures the cognitive and cultural elements that influence Vietnamese language use. Understanding the Vietnamese thinking and the cultural influences that pervade the language can be gained by analyzing the V[Function # Action] pattern. A cognitive preference for effectiveness and concision in communication may be shown by the smooth integration of

several grammatical functions inside a single word. Instead of strictly conforming to structural restrictions, Vietnamese speakers appear to perceive language as a useful instrument for conveying meaning. The emphasis on adaptation, conciseness, and the capacity to negotiate context-dependent nuances in cultural norms is probably the source of this flexible approach to language use.

b. V[Class # Action]

Vietnamese has a linguistic feature called category conflation, which illustrates the language's flexibility and conciseness. A single word can belong to many word classes. Because it belongs to many word classes, a word in this form of conflation can be employed in different contexts and as different parts of speech. This phenomenon is best described by the word *cái*.

To begin with, *cái* refers to an object as a noun with a broad meaning that does not describe its nature or attributes. In a sentence, it is an incredibly flexible and general term that can be used to refer to any item. In the sentence below.

(17)   Cái   này   là   của tôi"
         Noun   this   to be   my
         This is mine.

In this example, the word *cái* is used to convey that the object stated belongs to the speaker, but it doesn't go into depth about what the object is.

On the other hand, *cái* serves as a classifier when paired with another word, providing the subject of the reference with specificity and classification. When *cái* is employed as a classifier, it clarifies the attributes of the object and aids in determining its kind. *Cái bàn*, for instance, designates the table; *bàn* is the main noun and *cái* is the classifier, indicating that the item is, in fact, a table.

Additionally, *cái* has the ability to alter nouns to denote attributes by acting as an adjective. As an example, *cái* is used as an adjective to describe the color of the glass in *cái ly màu đỏ* (the red glass).

Vietnamese's linguistic efficiency is best demonstrated by the way *cái* can function as a noun, classifier, and adjective. By using a single word with many word classes, the language reduces the need for unnecessary terminology and increases linguistic conciseness. Vietnamese's capacity to convey various meanings with linguistic economy and diversity makes it expressive and versatile in a range of conversational contexts. Moreover, The Vietnamese language is pragmatic and flexible, which is reflected in this pattern of category conflation. Vietnamese speakers seem to prioritize efficient communication and modify language usage to suit certain settings and communicative demands, as opposed to strictly following grammatical rules and word class distinctions. The emphasis on pragmatism, ingenuity, and the capacity to handle context-dependent nuances may be the basis of this adaptable approach to language use in certain cultures. Last but not least, Vietnamese speakers may communicate complex ideas and relationships with a relatively restricted vocabulary by utilizing category conflation, which improves the communicative efficiency of the language. This linguistic feature adds to the expressive complexity of Vietnamese while also providing insights into the cultural influences and cognitive processes that determine language use in Vietnamese situations.

5. Conclusion

This study expands on the theoretical frameworks established by eminent linguists such as Fillmore, Jackendoff, and Talmy by offering a thorough analysis of the intricate conflation patterns displayed by Vietnamese verbs. Using a mixed-approaches strategy that included interviews with native speakers, elicitation tests, and corpus analysis, the study extracted a large dataset to investigate the way in which conceptual categories like Action, Cause, Manner, Motion, Path, Perception, Position, and Location are systematically combined within Vietnamese verb forms. The results showed that there are rich patterns of both outward conflations involving grammatical and lexical aspects and interior conflation patterns involving the merging of separate semantic components into single verb forms. Our knowledge of the cognitive processes underlying meaning formation and the cultural factors influencing language use in Vietnamese contexts is advanced by these discoveries.

Even though this study makes important contributions, there are certain things to be aware of. First off, the study's singular emphasis on the Vietnamese language may have limited the findings' applicability in other linguistic contexts. Furthermore, because a variety of contextual circumstances can impact speakers' linguistic choices, even with an exhaustive data collection method, it is possible that certain conflation patterns in ordinary language use were missed. Additionally, the study's objective was mainly descriptive, with the goal of identifying and analyzing the common conflation patterns; it did not, however, go deeper into the cognitive processes or cultural factors that underlie these patterns, leaving potential for future research in these areas.

Subsequent studies may broaden the focus of the analysis to encompass cross-linguistic comparisons, scrutinizing the ways in which conflation patterns materialize in many languages and cultures. Such comparative research could improve our knowledge of the cognitive and cultural foundations of conflation phenomena by revealing trends that are common to all languages and language-specific variances. The descriptive results of the current study could be supplemented by experimental investigations that explore the cognitive mechanisms at work in the creation and understanding of confused forms. Further investigation on the cultural elements driving conflation patterns could be accomplished through the use of ethnographic and anthropological methods, which would reveal the complex interrelationships among language, cognition, and culture within particular linguistic communities. Lastly, this study's results may be used to guide applications in fields including natural language processing, language education, and cross-cultural communication, highlighting the usefulness of this line of inquiry.

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