

TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC CONTRACTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

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Abstract: The economic contract is a typical type of discourse that depends on the agreement between parties. This paper adopted the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) to carry out a transitivity analysis of the ideational function in the Vietnamese economic contract in order to explore the features of this genre, a type of legal discourse. In the economic contract, there are six processes, among which the material process and existential process are dominantly used while the relational process, mental process, behavioral process, and verbal process, each just accounts for the small percentage. These processes are employed in order to express the parties' experience through legislation of rights, duties, obligation, remedies that they reach during the negotiation. The dominance of such specific processes reflects some features of legal discourse such as conciseness, clearness, exactness.

Keywords: process, transitivity, SFG, economic contracts

1. Introduction

The economic contracts have been playing such an important role in business activities of companies and the language employed in drafting contributes to the success of the contracts. However, up to now, according to Athukorala (2019), most of the researches about economic contracts mainly focus on legal aspects and then give suggestions of improvement of drafting contracts in terms of legislation. The study by Tran (2015) demonstrated that the researches about linguistic features in this field are quite limited. For that reason, we choose to analyze the transitivity process in the economic contracts with the aim of

exploring the language features of economic contracts regarding transitivity.

Additionally, the application of Halliday's theory of transitivity in analysing Vietnamese discourses, especially legal ones is still limited. For that reason, the research is not only meaningful in investigating the linguistic features of the Vietnamese contract discourse genre, but also in drafting and comprehending the contents of the contract. The study is expected to be useful for linguistic scholars as well as legal experts in completing language's features in the economic contracts in order to limit ambiguity and reduce disputes associated with contract performance.

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2. The Purposes of the Study

This research employed the transitivity analysis in Systemic Functional Grammar approach developed by Halliday to explore the linguistic features of transitivity processes and their pragmatic functions in the economic contracts. Specifically, the study raised two research questions:

- (1) What are transitivity processes employed in the selected economic contracts?
- (2) What are the most and least transitivity processes utilized in these contracts and why?

3. Theoretical Framework and Related Previous Studies

3.1. Theoretical Framework

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), language is a systemic functional semiotic to conduct certain functions. He indicated that there are three functions or meta-functions including the ideational function, the interpersonal function, and the textual function. The ideational function is to convey the new information, to describe the world, and to communicate. The interpersonal function is to reflect social and personal relations. Finally, the textual function is to express devices employed to create the coherent and unified text.

The ideational function refers to language as a semiotic system to express people's perceptions and their own consciousness of the world. It can be categorized into two sub-functions: the experiential that is largely concerned with ideas or content and the logical one related to the relationship between ideas. The transitivity system interprets the experience into a manageable set of process types which is composed of three semantic categories: the processes, the participants and the

circumstances (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). According to Halliday and Matthiessen, the clause is to reflect, to impose order on the endless variation and to flow of events which are achieved by transitivity through a set of process types (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 169).

In the English transitivity system, there are three main types of process: **material**, **mental** and **relational** one. On the borderline between 'material' and 'mental' are the **behavioral** processes which represent processes of consciousness and physiological states. Between 'mental' and 'relational' is the **verbal** process which symbolizes human consciousness and is enacted in the form of language. Similarly, between the 'relational' and the 'material' is the **existential** one which concerns with existence, the existential, or happening (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 171).

3.1.1. Material Process

The material process is involved with clauses of "doing" or "happening". It construes "a quantum of change in the flow of events". In this flow, the "doer" is called Actor and the second participant who is "affected" or "being done to" is called Goal. The Actor might be an abstract entity or an inanimate one and the Goal might be human or non-human. Its structure may be [Actor + Process (material) + Goal] (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). According to Hoang (2019), the material process in Vietnamese can be distinguished from the mental and the relational ones based on three criteria: participants, co-verb of direction and the probe. Specifically, the material process might have one or two participants acting as Actor and Goal. The participant might be either animate or inanimate. In terms of co-verb of direction, the material process is often associated with directional pro-verbs such as off, up, down, in, into... As for the probe, the material process can be recognized by asking questions: "X đã làm

gì Y? (*What did X do to Y?*) and “*Y làm sao thế?*” or “*Cái gì xảy ra với Y thế?*” (*What happened to Y?*) (Hoang, 2019, pp. 126-129).

3.1.2. Behavioral Process

The behavioral process is the one between material one and mental one, so it has similarities with these processes. It reflects behaviors of both physical and physiological states such as crying, smiling, breathing, dreaming, starting... It has one animated participant who is behaving is called Behavior. In some clauses, it might be characterized by another apparent participant acting as complement, the Range, which typically adds specification to the process. Its structure may be [*Behaver + Process (behavioral) ± Range*] (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). According to Hoang (2018), in case there are two participants, they are Behaver and Range or Phenomenon respectively.

3.1.3. Mental Process

The mental process is concerned about the process of sensing. It might be subcategorized into Cognition (thinking, understanding), Affection (liking, hating), and Perception (hearing). One of the features of the mental process that distinguishes metal process from others is that mental process always involves at least one human participant. Its structure may be [*Senser + Process (mental) + Phenomenon*] (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

According to Hoang (2019), the mental process is related to “human consciousness” and “the activities of the mind”. He also showed six criteria to recognize the mental process in Vietnamese, including the participants, the probe, the manner circumstance, the senser, the phenomenon and the projection. The participants in the mental process are some entity or someone that “senses”. The mental process might be recognized by asking *X nghĩ / cảm thấy / biết gì về Y?* (*What does X*

feel / think / know about?). In addition, the mental one may be distinguished from other processes by circumstantial manner of degree such as *rất* (*very*), *rất lắm / nhiều lắm* (*very much/a great deal*). Besides, the Senser in the mental process is one with human features or non-human nominal Senser in fairy stories. Additionally, the phenomenon in this type of process may be a “thing” or a “fact”. In case it is a “fact”, it can be realized by an embedded clause (Hoang, 2019, pp. 175-184).

3.1.4. Verbal Process

The verbal process, which is considered intermediated between mental and material ones, is a process of “*saying*” in order to transfer a message. The person who acts as a speaker in the clause is called *Sayer*. Its structure may be [*Sayer + Process (verbal) ± Target + Verbiage*] (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Based on the study by Hoang (2019), there are some criteria to distinguish verbal process from other ones in Vietnamese. They are participant relationships and the circumstance of matter. In the verbal process, the participant who says something is called the Sayer. The Receiver is some entity or someone else to whom the Verbiage may be directed. In addition, one of the criteria that distinguishes the verbal process from others is the appearance of the collocational patterning of Process: verbal and the circumstance of matter (Hoang, 2019, pp. 205-213).

3.1.5. Relational Process

The relational process is a process of “*being*” or a related category of existential clauses. In this type of process, there is a relationship established between two separate entities or something is being said to be something else. Based on the systematic construction, relational processes consist of three main types: (a) intensive: *x is a*; (b) circumstantial: *x is at a*; (c) possessive:

x has a and two modes (1) attributive: a is an attribute of x (2) identifying: a is the identity

of x (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). For example:

Table 1

The Principal Categories of Relational Clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 216)

Types	(1) attributive: 'a is an attribute of x'	(2) identifying 'a is the identity of x'
(1) intensive 'x is a'	Sarah is wise	Sarah is the leader; the leader is Sarah
(2) possessive 'x has a'	Peter has a piano	The piano is Peter's; Peter's is the piano
(3) circumstantial 'x is at a'	The fair is on a Tuesday	Tomorrow is the 10th; The 10th is tomorrow

If it is attributive, its structure may be [*Carrier: possessor + Process (relational) + Attribute: possessed*]. If it is identifying, its structure may be [*Identified + Process (relational) + Identifier*]. As mentioned by Hoang (2019), the relational process is quite complex to identify in Vietnamese. He also indicated that the relational process expresses “states of being of various kinds”, which is used to distinguish it from material and mental processes. In terms of grammar, the relational process cannot take the imperative form and cannot project (Hoang, 2019, pp. 223-234).

3.1.6. Existential Process

The existential process construes that something is happening or existing or the existence of any entity. In this existential one, there is only one participant called Existent which labels the entity or event which is being said or mentioned. In other words, Existent can be construed as action, event, thing, person, object, institution, abstraction... Its structure may be [*Process (existential) + Existent*] (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

According to Hoang (2018), in Vietnamese, the existential process can be identified by some criteria related to the participants, the verbs, and the semantic and grammar structure. Specifically, there is only one compulsory participant who is called the Existent, which may be a person,

an object or an event etc. Besides, the existential process may be associated with a distinct circumstantial element of time or place. The existential process is also identified by verbs such as *tồn tại* (exist) and *còn* (remain/exist), *treo* (hang), *ngồi* (sit), *nổi lên* (emerge), *xuất hiện* (appear)... (Hoang, 2018). In terms of grammar, the expressions of modality, modulation as well as Circumstantials of quality and means cannot exist in the clause. Furthermore, these verbs are often followed by a clause to form a clause complex (Hoang, 2019, pp. 274-283).

3.2. Related Previous Studies

Regarding Halliday’s theory, there are few researches in linguistic fields which have been associated with its application in analyzing discourse (Bloor & Bloor, 2013; Thompson, 2013). In terms of transitivity analysis, the previous studies focus on the distribution of transitivity processes and give explanations about the intention of the employment. These studies by Anggraini (2018), Naz et al. (2012) and Zhang (2017) focus on application of transitivity into analysis of political discourses. Other studies emphasize on other types of discourses such as movies, songs, novels, normal speeches like studies by Ali (2019), Sihura (2019), Zahoor and Janjua (2016). Some of the studies focus on daily conversations or media discourse such as

studies by Darani (2014) and Riris (2019).

In Vietnamese, Hoang (2005) applied SFG in analyzing the grammar of material processes in Vietnamese. Similarly, Diep (2005) also mentioned transitivity in a project of Vietnamese grammar. Later, Hoang (2020) applied SFG into transitivity analysis of Vietnamese School Science Textbooks in order to explore linguistic features of this genre in terms of types of process, circumstances, participants, and lexical density. These studies together with SFG by Halliday are considered to be a framework for us to apply in analyzing the Vietnamese economic contracts. However, application of SFG in exploring Vietnamese in general and in genre of legal discourse is quite new and thus has many gaps for further researches.

From an overview of related studies, it can be said that there is no research

associated with application of transitivity processes in order to analyze legal documents. Therefore, an analysis of transitivity processes in the economic contracts is necessary in order to explore the characteristic of this genre in terms of transitivity. For that reason, we chose to research “*Transitivity analysis of the economic contracts from the perspective of systemic functional grammar*”. This paper aims at exploring transitivity processes and their distribution in the discourse of the economic contracts. Through the analysis, we aim at generalizing the features of this type of discourse as for transitivity and give necessary explanations.

4. Research Methodology

4.1. Data and Data Collection

The data for the research is five economic contracts in the below table:

Table 2

The Data for the Research

Acronym	Contract
T1	Contract on barge repair between DVTVTC Co., Ltd and MH. Mechanical One Member Co., Ltd
T2	Contract on paint transportation service between SJT VN Co., Ltd. and MPC Trading and Service Co., Ltd
T3	Contract to buy batteries of all kinds between SB VN DVMD One Member Co., Ltd and PAQ MN Joint Stock Company
T4	Contract on office lease between GEMADEPT Joint Stock Company and Commercial Bank BV
T5	Contract on provision of daily cleaning services between Private Enterprise SH and BIDV DK

Source: The contracts collected from the companies by the author

These data are collected from companies that have commercial activities conducted through economic contracts. These are commercial contracts collected from five Vietnamese separate companies, which ensure the variety of the selected contracts. Each contract has five to ten pages with an average of 6000 words per a

contract. They are economic contracts associated with goods purchase, service provision. For the convenience of presentation, we prescribe the presentation as follows: T stands for contract, C for clause, A for article, I for appendix. For example: C1A2I1T4 means clause 1, article 2, and appendix 1 of the contract 4.

According to Article 385 of the Vietnam Civil Code 2015, “a contract is an agreement between parties on the establishment, change or termination of civil rights and obligations” (The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2015, p. 106). The above concept shows the voluntary nature of the parties to the contract, but it creates binding on legal rights and obligations. Up to now, there is no official document in the legal documents still valid to define the economic contract. However, based on Clause 1, Article 6 of the 2005 Commercial Law, it is defined: “Commercial activities are activities of traders for profit purposes” (The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2005, p. 7). Pursuant to Clause 21, Article 4 of the Enterprise Law 2020: “Business is the continuous performance of one, several or all stages of the process from investment, production to consumption of products or provision of services on market for the purpose of making a profit” (The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2020, p. 8). Therefore, an economic contract can be defined as follows: An economic contract is an agreement between traders for the performance of business activities for profit purposes.

Basically, economic contracts, besides the characteristics of contracts in general, also have specific characteristics such as the contracting parties being business entities; the content of the contract related to the actual conduct of business by business entities; signed on a voluntary and equal basis; the purpose is profitable; The form of a contract may be oral, written or its equivalent in writing. However, within the scope of this study, we only refer to the corpus as written contracts. There are two basic characteristics that distinguish

economic contracts from civil contracts, specific to the subject and purpose of signing the contract. In other words, economic contracts are signed by business entities, while civil contracts are signed between individuals. The purpose of an economic contract is a business or profit-making purpose, while a civil contract is to serve the daily needs of organizations and individuals.

The economic contract belongs to the legal genre so it has distinctive features. In terms of lexicon, Mellinkoff (1963) mentioned the peculiarity of this type of genre that legal language is characterized by some special features such as its formality, the usage of common words with uncommon meanings, archaisms, Latinism, Old French and Anglo-Norman words, terms of art, argot, formal words, expressions with flexible meanings (Mellinkoff, 1963).

4.2. Data Analysis

The determination of six processes is based on the probes mentioned in the theoretical framework. They are probes suggested by the author Hoang Van Van when he determined the types of transitivity processes in Vietnamese. For example, as for the material process, it can be recognized by asking questions: “X đã làm gì Y? (What did X do to Y?) and “Y làm sao thế?” or “Cái gì xảy ra với Y thế?” (What happened to Y?)” (Hoang, 2019, pp. 126-129). We determined that this following clause belongs to the material process by asking the question: What did Party B do to Party A?

Bên B cung cấp toàn bộ năng lượng, vật tư phụ và điện năng trong suốt quá trình thi công. (Party B provides all energy, supplementary materials and electricity during the construction process.) (C3A5T1)

Distribution of six processes in the selected economic contracts can be summarized in the below table:

Table 3*The Frequency of Processes in the Economic Contracts*

Contracts Process	Contracts					Total	Average
	HD1	HD2	HD3	HD4	HD5		
Material	42	290	16	198	14	560	112
	40%	46%	24%	37%	27%	174%	35%
Mental	6	34	5	38	3	86	17.2
	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	31%	6%
Relational	5	85	14	45	5	154	30.8
	5%	14%	21%	8%	10%	57%	11%
Behavioral	9	29	8	47	7	100	20
	9%	5%	12%	9%	13%	47%	9%
Verbal	9	42	5	49	2	107	21.4
	9%	7%	7%	9%	4%	36%	7%
Existential	34	147	20	155	21	377	75.4
	32%	23%	29%	29%	40%	155%	31%
Total	105	627	68	532	52	1384	276.8
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	500%	100%

5. Results and Discussion

The economic contracts are composed of legally binding clauses negotiated and agreed by the related parties. These clauses are realized in the real business activities thanks to the parties' commitments and the contract legislations of the government. For that reason, the content of the contracts is mainly about the rights and duties of the parties as consent. In other words, the contract is a type of legal discourse that is legally binding with the aim at ensuring its feasibility and practicality. Therefore, the language used in the contract must be clear, concise, and specific. Table 3 demonstrates that the material process is the most dominantly used, accounting for about 35%, followed by the existential process (31%). Other processes, including relational, verbal and mental processes account for the smaller percentage.

5.1. Material Process

Table 3 indicates that the material process is the most dominantly used in these contracts, taking up an average of 35% in total. The data demonstrates that the material process is presented through verbal groups that regulate the rights, obligations, responsibilities or duties of the related parties. These verbal groups might consist of such verbs: *cung cấp* (provide), *bảo vệ* (defend), *bồi thường* (damage), *bố trí* (arrange), *báo cáo* (report), *kiểm tra* (inspect), *yêu cầu* (request)... In other words, according to these material processes, the parties in the contracts know how to behave legally in accordance with the content agreed in the contracts. For example:

(1) *Bên B cung cấp toàn bộ năng lượng, vật tư phụ và điện năng trong suốt quá trình thi công. (Party B provides all energy, supplementary materials and electricity during the construction process.)* (C3A5T1)

Bên B <i>Party B</i>	cung cấp <i>provides</i>	toàn bộ năng lượng vật tư phụ và điện năng <i>all energy, supplementary materials and electricity</i>	trong suốt quá trình thi công. <i>during the construction process</i>
Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance

In the above example, one party bears the responsibility for supplying materials for the other to complete the agreed regulations. In contrast, the other has the right to be provided materials for its work. In the contracts, one party’s duties are the other’s rights and vice versa. Additionally, the data also indicates Actors and Recipients are business entities participating in the economic contracts as the parties. They are often companies or enterprises completing business registration and conducting commercial activities for profits. The process is often realized by verbal groups in active or passive forms. Besides, there are also circumstances setting conditions of time, range, manner in which the agreements between the parties become effective.

5.2. Behavioral Process

In the analyzed economic contracts, it can be demonstrated that the behavioral processes are reflected through verbal groups such as *bàn bạc (discuss), giải quyết (settle), có quyền (be allowed to/ have the right), thiện chí, cố gắng (try), cam kết (commit), bàn bạc (discuss)*... They are regulations associated with behaviors between business entities that might happen in the future. In addition, they also reflect the agreements’ legal binding effectiveness which legislate rights and responsibilities of the parties in the contracts. The below article is an instance:

(2) *Chi phí thuê hai bên sẽ thỏa thuận trên cơ sở giá cả thị trường chung của các tòa nhà đồng hạng tại TP HCM thời điểm BVB có nhu cầu. (About rental cost, the two parties will agree on the basis of the common market price of similar buildings in Ho Chi Minh City when BVB has demand.) (C2IET4)*

Chi phí thuê <i>About rental cost</i>	hai bên <i>the two parties</i>	sẽ thỏa thuận <i>will agree</i>	trên cơ sở giá cả thị trường chung của các tòa nhà đồng hạng tại TP HCM <i>on the basis of the common market price of similar buildings in Ho Chi Minh City</i>	thời điểm BVB có nhu cầu. <i>when BVB has demand</i>
Range	Behaver	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance

Similar to material process, in these contracts, Behavers are often parties who are responsible for behaving in such a certain manner as regulated in the contracts. The process is realized by verbal groups that reflect the negotiations of contract drafters and the range is about the duties that must be done. In addition, Circumstance is a component that states conditions in which such behaviors shall be conducted as concurred during negotiations.

5.3. Mental Process

From the analysis, it is likely that the mental processes in these contracts are reflected by verbal groups such as: *hợp tác (cooperate), có nghĩa vụ (be obliged to), nỗ lực (make effort to)*,... In addition, two main types of the mental processes in the contracts are perception and cognition. There is no room for material process that is associated with personal emotion as in other types of the discourse. It is helpful for contract-

makers to create objectiveness and transparency in the contracts. The material processes employed in the contracts reflect the parties' attitudes as well as their willingness in realizing agreements in the contracts. In other words, the economic contracts are places where business entities demonstrate their goodwill in the contracts' completion. For example:

(3) *Mỗi bên sẽ nỗ lực cao nhất để bảo đảm rằng các nhân viên của mình không tiết lộ các điều khoản của Hợp Đồng này cho bất kỳ bên thứ ba nào dù bằng lời nói hay bằng văn bản. (Each party will use its best efforts to ensure that its employees do not disclose the terms of this Agreement to any third party either orally or in writing.) (C10A12T4)*

Mỗi bên	sẽ nỗ lực cao nhất	để bảo đảm rằng các nhân viên của mình không tiết lộ các điều khoản của Hợp Đồng này cho bất kỳ bên thứ ba nào	dù bằng lời nói hay bằng văn bản.
<i>Each party</i>	<i>will use its best efforts</i>	<i>to ensure that its employees do not disclose the terms of this Agreement to any third party</i>	<i>either orally or in writing.</i>
Sensor	Process	Phenomenon	Circumstance

5.4. Verbal Process

According to table 2, the average frequency for verbal process is quite modest (21.4 times), accounting for 7% in total. This can be predicted because the contracts often exist in static forms, which have been all negotiated by parties before and the contracts are just places where negotiations have been recorded. Thus, the verbal process is the second lowest in processes that occur in the contract.

The data also demonstrates that in these contracts, the verbal processes are reflected through verbal groups such as *thông báo (notify/inform), trao đổi (exchange), cam đoan, cam kết (commit to)*... In addition, both *Sayer* and *Receiver* are parties, who have the equal status in the

negotiated contracts. In other words, through using verbal process, the parties express their attitudes, duties as well as commitments that have been absorbed into the contracts during the drafting process. More importantly, the verbal process or verbiage is associated with rights and duties of the parties in the contracts. In other words, through this process, they know how to behave legally as negotiated because these verbal groups themselves express compulsion. For example:

(4) *Trong thời hạn bảo hành, Bên A thông báo cho Bên B về những hư hỏng liên quan tới công trình do lỗi của Bên B gây ra. (During the warranty period, Party A informs Party B of the damage related to the work caused by Party B's fault.) (A9T1)*

Trong thời hạn bảo hành	Bên A	thông báo	cho Bên B	về những hư hỏng liên quan tới công trình do lỗi của Bên B gây ra.
<i>During the warranty period</i>	<i>Party A</i>	<i>informs</i>	<i>Party B</i>	<i>of the damage related to the work caused by Party B's fault</i>
Circumstance	Sayer	Process	Target	Verbiage

5.5. Relational Process

In the collected economic contracts,

in spite of the fact that the relational process just takes up the low frequency with an average of 30.8 times, and accounting for

11% in total, it has played such an important role in these contracts. Specifically, it is employed to establish the relationship between described entities or something is

being said to be something else. In these relational processes, **a** acts as *Identified/Token* and **x** is *Identifier/Value*, for example:

Bên Thuê <i>The Lessee</i>	là <i>is</i>	một công ty hoạt động trong lĩnh vực ngân hàng, đang có nhu cầu thuê mặt bằng để làm văn phòng làm việc và phòng giao dịch ngân hàng. <i>a company operating in the banking sector, and is in need of renting space for offices and banking transaction offices. (A1T4)</i>
Identified/Token	Process (relational)	Identifier/Value

Bên Thuê <i>The Lessee</i>	có <i>has</i>	quyền sử dụng tối thiểu bốn (04) chỗ đậu xe hơi <i>the right to use a minimum of four (04) car parking spaces</i>	trong suốt thời hạn thuê. <i>during the lease term.</i>
Carrier: possessor	Process: possession	Attribute: possessed	Circumstance

Bên thuê có quyền sử dụng tối thiểu bốn (04) chỗ đậu xe hơi trong suốt thời hạn thuê. (The Lessee has the right to use a minimum of four (04) car parking spaces during the lease term.) (A11IAT4)

There are all types of relational process that happen in the contracts including both attributive and identifying relational processes.

Table 4

Some Examples of Relational Processes

	(i) attributive 'a is an attribute of x'	(ii) identifying 'a is the identity of x'
(1) intensive 'x is a'	Bên nào [không thể thực hiện đầy đủ nghĩa vụ của mình do sự kiện bất khả kháng như vậy], sẽ không bị coi là vi phạm các quy định của Hợp đồng này. <i>Any party that is unable to fulfill its obligations due to such Force Majeure Event shall not be deemed to be in breach of the provisions of this Agreement. (C1A7IIT2)</i>	Phán quyết của tòa án là quyết định cuối cùng. <i>The court's judgment is the final decision. (A10T1)</i>
(2) possessive 'x has a'	Trong trường hợp bên B giao hàng không đảm bảo chất lượng Bên A có quyền từ chối không nhận hàng. <i>In the event that Party B does not deliver the qualified goods, Party A has the right to refuse to receive the goods. (C2A5T3)</i>	Bên Thuê có quyền sử dụng tối thiểu bốn (04) chỗ đậu xe hơi trong suốt thời hạn thuê. <i>The Lessee has the right to use a minimum of four (04) car parking spaces during the lease term. (A11IAT4)</i>

(3) circumstantial 'x is at a'	“Ngày bắt đầu dịch vụ” nghĩa là vào ngày mà LSP bắt đầu cung cấp dịch vụ cho JOTUN. “Service Start Date” is on the date that the LSP commences providing services to JOTUN. (C1A1IIT2)	Thời điểm kết thúc của một tháng là vào ngày cuối tháng. The end of a month is on the last day of the month. (C2A3T5)
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5.6. Existential Process

In the contracts, the existential process plays an essential role in expressing experience of the parties. For that reason, it occurs 75.4 times on the average, and accounts for the second largest percentage (31%) in total. This can be explained that it is employed to describe the existence of any entity by employing mainly two verbal groups: *có (has), phát sinh (appear)*. The existential clauses are conveyed to predict circumstances that are likely to happen in reality in the scope of the economic contracts. These clauses are beneficial for the contract-drafter to ensure the transparency, accuracy, specificity. In other words, the contracts regulate obligation,

responsibility, rights, and duties of the related parties to make sure that they conduct business activities in accordance to the agreed contracts. Through establishing regulations, the parties realize their power and attitudes by expressing their wish, intention. At the same time, they also estimate situations that can occur in real business through employing existential clauses. For example: *Trong trường hợp có tranh chấp, hai Bên có quyền chuyển toàn bộ các hồ sơ liên quan lên tòa án kinh tế, thuộc tòa án Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh để giải quyết. (In case of a dispute, the two Parties have the right to transfer all relevant documents to the economic court, under the court of Ho Chi Minh City for settlement).* (A10T1)

Trong trường hợp <i>In case there</i>	có <i>is</i>	tranh chấp <i>a dispute</i>	hai Bên có quyền chuyển toàn bộ các hồ sơ liên quan lên tòa án kinh tế, thuộc tòa án Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh để giải quyết. <i>the two Parties have the right to transfer all relevant documents to the economic court, under the court of Ho Chi Minh City for settlement.</i>
Circumstance	Process	Existent	Goal

The material process is dominantly used in the contracts because it is used to express the experience and attitudes of the parties in predicting situations that may happen during conducting the contracts. It also is helpful to determine specific tasks that must be done by parties. Additionally, the existent process which has the second largest frequency is also helpful to describe reality or prediction that may happen and the regulations in the contracts become effective. Thus, the parties must follow and behave in an agreed negotiation. The rest

take up a smaller percentage due to the static and formal features of the contracts.

The finding of the study is similar to previous studies in terms of the dominance of material processes that are employed to express ideation of addressers. In comparison with other genres, each type of genre has distinguished features as for kinds of processes and their distribution in the discourse. Some of genres, there are six process types that exist in the discourse while others just have some kinds of transitivity processes. In addition, the

frequency of these processes in each type of genre is disparate. Regarding political speeches, the material process is the most dominant, followed by the relational process and the mental process. The material one is utilised to express the power; the relational process is employed to advocate interests; the mental process is for recovering the audience's confidence. These results are reflected in studies conducted by Anggraini (2018) when conducting research on linguistic features of Donald Trump's speeches. Additionally, these features are also reflected in the research by (Zhang, 2017).

As for textbook genres, Hoang (2018) demonstrated that material and relational processes are the most prominent while mental, verbal and existential processes are low and there is no room for behavioral process. This feature explains the feeling of alienation among students caused by the language of school science textbooks (Hoang, 2020). When it comes to entertainment work, researches showed that six processes are stated in these discourses. The material processes are dominantly used in order to express the ideation. One of the distinguished features of this genre is the high frequency of mental processes to convey emotional expressions. The rest just account for the small percentage. These results can be found in the studies about movies by Sihura (2019); about songs by Zahoor & Janjua (2016).

6. Conclusion

According to an analysis of the contracts, all the six process types are found to have occurred in this kind of discourse. As shown in Table 3, the material process is the most frequently used process type with a total occurrence (112 times and 35% on average). The reason is that the economic contract is to reflect experience, information. Therefore, employment of the material

process is useful for the contract-makers to estimate circumstances that will happen in business activities. In addition to material processes, the existential process and relational ranks the second in the frequency with an average of 31% in total. It is useful to regulate rights, duties of related entities. In the economic contracts, the contract-drafters tend to give estimations about what is likely to happen in order to guide parties to do or avoid or restrain them in accordance with the agreement. The others only take up a small percentage in total. This can be explained that the contracts are documents that recorded negotiation and agreement of parties during the drafting process. Thus, they exist in a static state and there are few chances for drafters to use other processes such as behavioral, verbal, and mental ones.

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PHÂN TÍCH HỆ THỐNG CHUYÊN TÁC TRONG CÁC HỢP ĐỒNG KINH TẾ TIẾNG VIỆT TRÊN CƠ SỞ LÝ THUYẾT NGỮ PHÁP CHỨC NĂNG HỆ THỐNG

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Tóm tắt: Hợp đồng kinh tế là một thể loại diễn ngôn pháp lý được hình thành dựa vào sự thỏa thuận giữa các bên. Bài báo này đã áp dụng khung lý thuyết Ngữ pháp chức năng hệ thống (SFG) để thực hiện việc phân tích hệ thống chuyên tác trong hợp đồng kinh tế tiếng Việt nhằm khám phá những nét đặc trưng thể loại của diễn ngôn pháp lý này. Trong hợp đồng kinh tế, có sáu kiểu quá trình, trong đó quá trình vật chất và quá trình hiện hữu được sử dụng chủ yếu, còn quá trình quan hệ, quá trình tinh thần, quá trình hành vi và quá trình lời nói, mỗi kiểu quá trình chỉ chiếm một tỷ lệ nhỏ. Các quá trình này được sử dụng để thể hiện kinh nghiệm của các bên thông qua các quy định về quyền, nghĩa vụ và các biện pháp chế tài mà họ đã thỏa thuận được trong quá trình thương lượng hợp đồng. Sự chi phối của các quá trình cụ thể như vậy phản ánh một số đặc điểm của diễn ngôn pháp lý như ngắn gọn, rõ ràng, chính xác.

Từ khóa: quá trình chuyên tác, SFG, hợp đồng kinh tế, diễn ngôn pháp lý