SYNTACTIC STRUCTURAL FEATURES OF DESCRIPTIVE DISCOURSE DEMONSTRATE TEXTUAL FUNCTIONS IN MODERN VIETNAMESE ESSAY DATA

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

Discourse is the complex, flexible entity in the system of meaning expression consisting of many levels closely and dialectically related. The syntactic structure principles help the user shape discourse components appropriately to suit the content and purpose of the communication. They include the rules about sentence structure, the agreement between sentence elements, and the arrangement of words to create meaning. Understanding and using correct syntactic structures helps users fully express ideas accurately and logically. With its characteristic "open" nature, the descriptive discourse is a useful "tool" that helps individuals concretize the reality of the multi-dimensional and multi-faceted world as it is. Because the research object is complex, we apply and combine the discourse analysis methods, semantic analysis methods, and description methods to help us identify accurately and completely the syntactic structure features that actualize the text creation function. The survey results not only clarify the conscious or unconscious rules in the socio-cultural ideology that governs the communication process but also clarify the aesthetics of discourse in the literature. At the same time, it affirms the scientific value of the Systemic Functional Grammar theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

The basic function of descriptive discourse is to create a message. The message is realized through the syntactic structure of the discourse. Understanding and using the correct syntactic structure of discourse helps users express thoughts accurately and logically. The syntactic structure is the rule of arranging and combining words/phrases in a reasonable way to express a certain meaning. Systemic Functional Grammar theory is a theory that studies discourse in communication activities, bringing a mixed, multi-dimensional perspective from form to content, making an important contribution to reflecting many aspects of social life as well as revealing user attitudes and opinions. The diversity in

syntactic structure ensures that the process of creating and conveying user messages takes place accurately and smoothly.

Currently, the discourse analysis is approached by the linguists in many different directions. Based on the research objectives and the research methods, we temporarily generalize discourse research into three trends with main research contents:

(i) The Linguistic approach: formed based on Saussure's linguistics (1973) marked the important change in language research, emphasizing the structural characteristics of the discourse. All the individual actions and social organizational structures are related to the discourse, so they can be understood as a system of closely related elements. Each element in the system only has meaning when it is placed within an overall structure.

(ii) The Stylistic approach: Bakhtin (1981) can be seen as the originator of studying language as an entity in the complex, multifaceted and constantly changing real life of the texts/ discourses in the history.

(iii) The Sociological approach: The center of this approach is Foucault's (1981) concepts of the discourse, which does not pay attention to the verbal structure within the discourse, but mainly explores the factors that govern the formation and operation of the discourse such as ideology, and power. The literary text is not the object of study of this approach but is only one of the data examining the transformation and replacement of the intellectual systems and the power relations.

It can be seen that three trends in the approaching discourse provide a theoretical and methodological framework for the discourse research projects. Therefore, these three approaches have had great influence, influencing almost all the discourse theory in the 20th century.

From the SFG theoretical system, we hope to approach the syntactic structure of Vietnamese sentences from a new, complete, and comprehensive perspective in each situational context, helping to clarify the social and artistic nature of descriptive discourse, that materializes through literary texts such as *Leisurely Interlocutory* by Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong, *Scattered in Front of the Lamp* by Do Chu, *Sit Idle Gossip*, Hanoi doesn't have snow by Do Phan, *The Back of your neck is cold* by Nguyen Ngoc Tu.

However, in reality, it is not always easy to distinguish clearly between the genres of prose because there is always an increasingly strong interference between the genres. Therefore, we chose the above research data source because these are publications that have been confirmed in terms of genre, and published by reputable publishers.

2. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH METHODS

The discourse is an independent structural unit that realizes the user's thoughts. The environment for discourse to operate is the process of interpersonal communication. So, any type of discourse always exists in a static state (in each individual's potential) and a dynamic state (in the communication activities). To perform the functions of thinking and communication, descriptive discourse must be organized according to its principles and operate in a system including many different levels, having a dialectical relationship with each other.

Linguistics is the experimental science, all conclusions come from research practice based on the analysis of the actual data sources. Therefore, we use the discourse analysis method to help determine exactly how to organize and arrange the internal structural units. The semantic analysis method helps clarify how messages are created and conveyed through the syntactic structure. The descriptive method helps classify the number and frequency of occurrence 69of word/phrase/structure patterns in the context of use. We will use the results as a basis for

the conclusion about typical features of the descriptive discourse that perform the text creation function.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The syntactic structure of descriptive discourse is built according to linear principles, so the message structure is also organized according to linearity. According to this principle, the descriptive discourse begins with the Theme and ends with the Rheme. The text-creating function of the discourse is expressed through the Theme - Rheme structure. In particular, the Theme is the identified component (corresponding to the old message) combined with the Rheme component (corresponding to the new message) to create a complete topic. The user organizes the descriptive discourse structure as a message presentation that must be consistent with the previous (old) message and the following (new) message as well as appropriate to the situational context.

The syntactic structure of discourse is a semantic structure that considers how the message is formed.

1. Does the discourse have syntactic meaning? If any, how does that syntactic meaning characterize the elements in the discourse?

2. What is the difference between syntactic meaning and expressive meaning?

3. What is the process of transmitting - receiving - interpreting the message?

Therefore, the process of organizing and selecting the Theme is the core prerequisite for the descriptive discourse to perform the function of creating text.

3.1. Systemic Functional Grammar

Since the 70s of the twentieth century, the method of discourse analysis was formed and developed on the theoretical foundation of Systemic Functional Grammar founded by John Rupert Firth. Halliday is the one who developed and perfected this theoretical system based on the philosophical concept that the discourse is the communication system. That is why when studying discourse, we must place discourse in a broad socio-cultural context to understand how users perceive events (potential meaning) as well as how to reflect that perception.

The message structure is the type that links content in depth and is concretized through discourse structure. Text structure formalizes discourse structure. Typically, a message indicates what the user is talking about and how. However, Vietnamese is a language that does not change its form, so the basic structure of a Vietnamese sentence corresponds to the structure of a clause consisting of two components: Theme and Rhyme - "tool" performs text creation function. In particular, the Theme is the component linked to the previous message (old) and creates the focus for the following message (new). Therefore, the process of realizing the message's meaning is mainly through the Theme.

Starting from the purpose of communication, we think that establishing the message structure as the theme plays an important role, in deciding the entire content of the message as well as whether the communication purpose is effective or not, so Theme development is considered the framework of the entire text. So, the process of arranging the Theme components is a reasoned choice, not arbitrary. This change in order certainly has a certain communicative impact on the receiver.

From a syntactic perspective, the syntactic relationship at the surface and the semantic relationship at the deep level are closely related and bound to each other. From a communication perspective, due to different purposes, different methods of semantic expression should be chosen, because after all,

a semantic structure can use many forms of syntactic structure to express.

The process of discourse analysis is the process of decoding discourse from the way things refer to the situational context, so it is necessary to generalize the expression into the Theme system as a fulcrum for the meaning-creation process. From there, in our opinion, syntactic meaning and expressive meaning are two types of meaning in different aspects, with distinctions in nature. Syntactic meaning is general and reflects the syntactic relationship between words/ phrases, while expressive meaning is specific and reflects the relationship between phenomena in reality.

3.2. Discourse and descriptive discourse

Discourse research is not a new issue in scientific research, but it is difficult to have a complete and convincing view because the discourse is an entity that is constantly moving so the discourse always continuously shifts the meaning in the communication. Therefore, up to now, the concept of discourse has not been fully unified. Harris (1952), was a pioneer in the field of discourse studies. He shows the relationship between the textual and the social context of discourse through the distribution of elements/functions of discourse in textual. Another researcher emphasized that discourse is the event of communication that takes place between the speaker and the listener (observer...) in the process of communicating, in some time, space, or other context. This communication can be verbal, written, its components can be speech, nonverbal or linguistic (Dijk, 1989).

From the research of scientists, we think that discourse is the term for the event of purposeful, unified, and coherent communication, recorded in writing according to its own rules and mechanisms. Depending on social status, the discourse creators will form discourse orders to suit their status, at the same time there will be many different discursive strategies to persuade others.

Hence, research discourse will help us understand many interesting aspects of human cognition about the world. Additionally, we found that there are quite a few studies discussing the nature of the verbal art of discourse in the literature such as Foucaul; Todorov; Barthes; Bakhtin; Hamburger; Kate; Compagnon; Jakobson; etc. According to the opinion of genre theorists Phi, Han & Su in *Dictionary of Literary Terms* (1993: 59): *"The essay is any short composition in the form of prose whose task is to discuss an issue, explain a point of view, or persuade the reader to accept a certain point of view on any topic"*.

In our opinion: The essay is artistic prose consisting of many different sub-genres composed freely, without following a pattern. The literary nature of the essay genre is the discourse about life, with ideas and unique characteristics, so it is suitable for presenting the message about the objective and subjective world in the user's thoughts.

The syntactic structure of descriptive discourse has the function of concretizing the relationship between the form and content of the message. The Theme is a component that represents potential experiential meaning that exists independently outside of discourse. From a formal aspect, the Theme is often expressed by the noun/noun phrase or the pronoun that replaces all syntagms that express substantive meanings such as nouns. However, it should be noted that text is the external formal element of discourse, while discourse is the internal meaningful element of the text. Discourse is concretized through the form of text. Thus, discourse analysis must be through the textual, and cannot be separated from specific textuals, but it is also not limited by any textual.

3.3. Syntactic structural features of descriptive discourse demonstrate textual functions in modern Vietnamese essay data

The syntactic structure represents the relationship between external form and

internal content. Accordingly, the syntactic structure of the message consists of two parts (i) the structure outside the units (Theme part) and (ii) the internal structure inside the units (Theory part). Starting from the purpose of the communication, the Theme plays a role in determining the message semantics, linking the message together, creating coherence in content and connection in form for the text. The Theme in the thinking is to reflect the user's perception of the world. At the formal level, the Theme is concretized by the nouns/noun phrases or the pronouns that can be used to replace all syntagms that express the meaning of the entity part such as a noun.

3.3.1. Topical Theme

The Theme is the defined component that helps increase the value of the message because the Theme contains word/phrase elements, or syntactic structures in the same semantic field that create the complete topic. Each text usually revolves around the topic. However, the Theme does not always coincide with the message, each type of Theme has different roles depending on the user's communication purpose. If the Theme is not chosen properly, the syntactic structure of the descriptive discourse will lose its cohesion and coherence

Descriptive discourse is linear, so the message is organized according to linear characteristics. In terms of sequence, the process of perceiving the object occurs first, then the way to organize the syntactic structure to inform about the object is formed. We can see that the Theme structure is both psychological (what the mind chooses as the starting point) and textual, meaning which object to choose as the focus of the message is closely related to how organization of syntactic structure in the discourse. Accordingly, the Topical Theme is the type of topic that has the function of conveying the

message effectively. There are two types of Topical Themes:

(i) The Marked Theme: The Theme does not coincide with the subject.

(ii) The Unmarked Theme: The Theme has the same subject.

The phenomenon of message focalization represents the special hidden meaning, to emphasize the message, create an impression, and attract the recipient's attention. The user often uses words/ phrases to replace or supplement a certain object to intentionally create the focus for the message that the user thinks is most important and wants readers to pay attention to. Because this is the beginning stage of building the message and also the basis for considering how meaning is created and understood. Surveying the data sources, the syntactic structure of the discourse realized through the Theme has the following results:

Table 1. Statistics of descriptive discourse expressing the function of Topical Theme

Topical Theme	Quantity	Rate (%)
Unmarked topical theme	2028	72.68
Marked topical theme	762	27.32
Total	**2790**	**100**

The survey results showed the opening factor of descriptive discourse has a very clear modeling function. The fundamental issue here is not "What is the end?" but "Where does it come from?". Consequently, the author mainly uses the unmarked topical theme (accounting for 72.68%) to name the state of affairs, pointing directly at the mentioned object (person/thing), clearly showing the purpose of persuasion and direct impact on the receiver. However, it should be understood that "determine" is not "known" (old information) but must be understood more flexibly (Cao

Xuan Hao, 1991). In literary texts, events are like communicative acts in which problems are expressed, textual context and sociocultural context are inseparable. The defining properties of the object are determined only when the reader understands the object's reference. The author chooses to use a definite noun/ noun phrase as the Unmarked Topic Theme because they believe that through the reference process, the reader will recognize and accurately identify the object the author wants to address. For example:

(1) ***An old man named*** (TS) *wore shorts dyed with smeared banana resin, and waited until he passed the choked on tea before he said if weak, drink herbal medicine, in this Xeo Quao land have many plants, so it is very medicinal* (RS) [*Mr. Ca Bi in Xeo Quao*, pg. 60].

(2) ***Mr. Vidal*** (TS) *told me, one of the urgent requirements of the Mesmoire d'Indochine association is to help its members find their old relatives in Vietnam* (RS) [*Talk to an intersted French*, pg. 146].

Socially, proper name is the factor used to distinguish objects from each other as well as identify the unique attributes of each object. By using the Unmarked Topical Theme, the author seems to want to somewhat limit the effectiveness of the statement in the Rheme, and implicitly deny the effectiveness of the comment about the object outside that limited scope. When the author marks the message focus, it must certainly express some meaning, not simply provide the message content. From there, the effectiveness of the message is not only enhanced but also helps the reader look at the implicit judgment about the subject's life and fate. This shows that for a message to be structured successfully, it must be built from the author's ideas and purpose. Typically, the Unmarked Topical Theme is used with adjectives that describe a character's appearance. Thereby, helping readers recognize the author's implicit assessment of

the characters when they appear in the text. Observe the following examples:

(3) ***The local young man*** (TS) *who led the way was afraid that visitors would not understand, explaining, "he means that he will have money when people hire digging, clean up, or build a dike..."* (RS) [*Mr. Ca Bi in Xeo Quao*, pg. 58].

(4) ***An old friend in Thai Binh*** (TS) *visited me, remembering the taste of Hanoi draft beer, two guys drove a motorbike to the top of the Botanical Garden* (RS). [*People who like rain*, pg.169].

Each author has his way of feeling and has a multi-dimensional view of the objective real world as well as subjective personal consciousness. The impact of the message on the recipient will be maintained and highly effective if the user uses the Unmarked Topical Theme with the indefinite noun/noun phrase to refer to the object specifically and to highlight the internal hidden message in the object. Therefore, the Unmarked Topical Theme in the descriptive discourse not only is the author referenced from the deterministic object but also built from the indefinite noun/ noun phrase. This is the element that has the function of referencing the object in the discourse. And also is a unique type of reference that creates transparency and unambiguous meaning, helping readers accurately identify the object. For example:

(5) *There was **a plowman** in the field running back, holding a ladle to wash his feet in the pool, and asked, what's the point of lighting the lamp?; **The owner of the restaurant** had not been in business for long before he was killed by a notorious bandit general, who took the shop as a refuge, hiding from the wanted soldiers on the other side; **The soldier** thought he would fall asleep immediately, but toss and turn, unable to sleep, the more he tried to close his eyes, the more awake he became; In the shop, **a customer** had his hands and feet tied, fumbled*

*for it, and rushed down to the village to report the news. The name "Quan Hú Via" entered **the legend** from that day. Wow, the beloved guest was restored to life.* [*Restaurant's Startle*, pg. 24-38].

In essays, we see that the indefinite word/phrase chosen as the Unmarked Topical Theme is quite commonly used because it is both Theme (represent an object) and focal (provide a selective, objective message) associated with a somewhat informal form of address that indicates a polite attitude that is suitable for all readers to bring about high persuasive efficiency. That is an important issue that the author is always concerned about because their reader is different in age, psychology, race, education level, occupation, social status, etc.

Surveying data sources, we find that when choosing to use the Unmarked Topical Theme, the user not only expresses an implicit assessment of the character but also helps the character make a special impression on the reader, making the reader quickly visualize the character's unique characteristics whenever they appear. This shows the ingenuity and intelligence of the author because it is the wisdom in choosing to use a series of suitable Unmarked Topical Themes that helps the author make implicit judgments about the message through the character in an extremely skillful way. This is the value of the Unmarked Topical Theme in descriptive discourse.

The Topical Theme position normally coincides with the subject position, but when another element is used to replace the subject, creating a focus for the message, we have the Marked Topical Theme. Although the percentage of Marked Topic Themes is not high it is used with a very clear purpose (about 27.32%). The essay is a non-literary text genre built on the method of reflecting real life with the main purpose of providing the message. Structural and connective elements in discourse describe activity as social interaction to situational context.

By using the Marked Theme type, the user wants to give the reader a random, frequently repeated message, so it is necessary to determine specific time and space factors to help increase the generalization of the message. The reference to reality in real life has helped the reader better understand the historical circumstances of a bygone era. In *Leisurely Interlocutory*, Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong wrote:

(6) ***After 1975*** (TS)*, an old friend of writer Nguyen Tuan, Mrs. Nguyen Dinh Chi, owner of An Hien Garden in Hue, invited him to eat a full-salt meal, including 27 salted dishes, and making him "don't know forever what he eat"* (RS) [*Or to share the same type of writing*, pg. 81].

(7) ***Looking back 100 years*** (TS)*, Truong Tien Bridge and Quoc Hoc School are both no longer exist in their inherent architectural and cultural patterns: What should I do now?* (RS) [*Little story at the end of the year*, pg. 87].

With the function of marking time spanning from the past to the present, the Time Topical Theme not only emphasizes the importance of the message but also helps the message stand out from the previous message. The author wishes to convey to readers the most complete message about the reality of life in each historical, cultural, and social period so that readers can not only visualize true reality but also understand the nature inherent in that reality. This process has a major impact on how readers receive the message and use it. For example, during *The Nguyen Dynasty on the streets of Hue*, Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong wrote:

(8) ***The Nguyen Dynasty started in 1558*** (TS) *when Nguyen Hoang turned his back on Thang Long to go to "Hoang Son Nhat Dai"* (RS)*. **Until the August Revolution** (TS), which went through 09 lords and 13 kings with glory and disgrace and lasted 387 years, it is still the longest-reigning family in the nation's history* (RS) [p.102-103].

(9) ***From North Phu Yen under Nguyen Hoang's reign to the fortress of Thuan Quang until the Mac family was conquered in Ha Tien in 1708*** (TS)*, Vietnam has completed the "curved shape like the letter S" now* (RS) [p.104].

The descriptive discourse is the dynamic socio-cultural entity that not only helps reflect the message but also helps the author speculate whether the message meets the information needs of the reader or not. Or whether the message is positively received by the reader or not. The real event can be viewed from many different angles, so the message can be "decoded" into many different contents, so these are "dynamic" chains of events. Therefore, the message content must be verified accurately and transparently before transmitting to the reader. Thereby, enhancing the informational value of the message. The persuasion process is thereby maintained and developed.

Any literary text recreates the material world and the spiritual world in a comprehensive and complex way. The natural form of that world is first of all determined by space, so space in literary texts not only simply recreates real space but also represents human ideological space and, more broadly, of an entire culture in a certain historical period. Therefore, choosing to use the Space Topcial Theme to indicate the existence of the event is a wise choice, helping the user create a special highlight for the message, making it attractive to the reader.

For example, to explain the reason why the press cannot tell any truth necessary for life, so no one bothers to read it, they would rather spend time wandering the streets to gather information from the *Sidewalk academy*, Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong used the space topical theme extremely appropriately to cite the case of Goethe as a writer who did not read newspapers for the above reason:

(10) ***In the Yearbook 1808-1811*** (TS)*, Goethe confided: "I have long been convinced that newspapers are made only to amuse the crowds and to dazzle them for a moment, or some external forces prevent the editor telling the truth, or their factional has led him to deviate, that's why I don't read any more newspapers"* (RS) [*Stabbing Some Crooks The Pen That That Does Not Wear Out*, p.126].

Or, when showing admiration and respect for the loyal and courageous heart hidden in the souls of the predecessors, once again, Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong chooses to use an extremely special Space Topical Theme:

(11) ***In literature*** (TS)*, I knew three people living in the world who could never bow their heads, but they bowed to inanimate objects. The first is Cao Ba Quat, bowing to apricot flowers (Nhat sinh de thu bai hoa mai) The second one is Phan Boi Chau, bows to the rock (Bai Thach vi huynh), and now it's Phung Quan's turn to bow to the watermelon* (RS). [*Phung Quan Bowed To The Watermelon*, pg.84].

In addition to the function of reflecting messages, descriptive discourse is also used to explain social situations or criticize unethical phenomena that go against cultural traditions. Proposing corrective measures still ensures objectivity. Therefore, a series of Marked Topical Themes such as ways, means, states, causes, purposes, etc. are all used by the author relatively effectively. Through the Marked Topical Theme system, the content of the message conveyed is not only a real event, but behind that real event is a series of very realistic emotions and attitudes of the author.

According to this structure, usually, the most important and valuable content of the message is chosen as the Marked Topical Theme, while the content explanation is a secondary element with no notification function, mainly as a background for the Marked Topical Theme to exist. This not only shows the power and importance of descriptive

discourse to the message semantics but also helps the author visualize how readers receive, and "decode" the message as well as how they respond. For example, to reflect information in the past few years, Le Minh Ngoc has become a famous star in domestic and international media channels (Japan, France, USA, Canada,...) - like a rich man in the country communist - the rich communist man, Hoang Phu Ngoc Tuong wrote:

(12) ***Extremely surprised*** (TS)*, I saw that he was so afraid of capitalism, that infecting my poor Quang Tri mother* (RS). ***To be fair*** (TS)*, back around then (twenty years ago), it wasn't just him, but we all had a mechanical understanding of those concepts* (RS). [*The concept of Le Minh Ngoc*, p.201].

(13) *Or used to sarcastic, and satirize the stupid, impatient, and hasty actions of the French and Japanese:* ***In life***, ***there are many ways to die***, ***think about love*** (TS)*, during the Japanese coup, she witnessed it with her own eyes the French pulled out their pistols, the Japanese drew their swords, and when the guns fired, the swords were also slashed* (RS). [*Scattered In Front Of The Lamp*, p.370].

According to SFG, a sentence is a linguistic unit created in specific communication situations, so the most important function is to convey the message, not the function of judgment or the function of expressing the event. Therefore, when it comes to the sense of the sentence, we must talk about the sense of the message first, not just the content of the clause. This is always associated with the author's purpose of needing notification and the relationship between them and the recipient.

Thus, it can be seen that in current affairs the Topical Theme has a particularly important role and position in helping descriptive discourse convey and cohesion messages together. Types of the Topical Theme appear almost everywhere in sentences, except for shortened sentences. In terms of text function,

the message semantic is built with a clear purpose according to each specific content within the context chain. Because the essay genre is a means of communication that conveys messages to many audiences. Hence, the descriptive discourse has an appropriate form and important position with the communication characteristics of essay genre.

3.3.2. Textual theme

The Textual Theme is a type of Theme that is outside the message of the sentence and has the function of cohesioning the messages together to create coherence and logic for the descriptive discourse. The message segment is considered central when it is placed in opposition to another message segment. This time, the Textual Theme will be an effective tool because they have the function of emphasizing the content of the message behind it, signalling this is the most important piece of the message, consistent with the movement process of thinking, the message transmission process, and the recipient's habits: going from the known to the unknown (inference process). Surveying descriptive discourse expressing the function of Textual Theme in modern Vietnamese essays, we had the following results:

Table 2. Statistics of descriptive discourse expressing the function of Textual Theme

Textual theme	Quantity	Rate (%)
But / yet	78	36.79
And	52	24.52
Then/ so/ that's it	33	15.56
However	28	13.20
Firstly	12	5.66
Last	9	4.24

Total	212	100

From Table 2., we see that most of the Textual Themes appear mainly with contrasting senses to lead the reader to one conclusion as intended by the author. This contrast is formed based on the author's cognitive activity or from presuppositions that are taken for granted. This feature forms the infer function of the sentence, as well as the transition element between clauses in a descriptive discourse to ensure coherence, and to help the reader recognize the exact message sense. For example, in *Sit Idle Gossip*, Do Phan writes:

(14) *The 5-cent coin in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is the largest value of all coins. Called "all kinds" for full memory, but actually there are only three coins in all: 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents.* **But** (TT)*, **days ago** (TE) don't know why there was an idiom "Novel 3 cents" to cheapen literature?* [*Cup Of Tea 5 Cents*, p.35].

(15) *Children of my age roam the lakeside selling ice cream quite a lot.* **But** (TT) **suddenly a destructive war happen** (TE)*, the whole city was evacuated.* [*Kem đe e e e...!*, p.51].

The examples show the reverse cause-and-effect structure in the sentence. The contrasting nature of the Textual Theme is used extremely logically because they have the effect of emphasizing the contrasting senses of argument by explaining, not refuting nor correcting the message. If the message sent to the reader is simply objective facts, figures, quotes, etc., the author's argument will give the reader a more independent perspective, helping them form emotions, attitudes, and behavior before important events affecting society.

When the author chooses to use the conjunctions but, yet, so, etc. as "core values signposts" in the argument to make the Textual Theme. Meaning that, using them as an introduction to the message to draw the reader's attention. This leads the reader to a predetermined conclusion which has the effect of influencing their perception so that they agree with the author's assessment of the message content being informed.

The message unit is a structure formed from two functions internal content and external form. On the surface of the external structure, the discourse element that has the function of describing, and marking message are the adverbs of time: *for, just, now, last, etc.*; adverbs indicating unifying continuity: *also, again, still, even, etc.*; adverbs indicating affirmation, negation: *yes, no, not yet, not, etc.*; adverbs indicating the end, complete: *already, done, etc*. They are the grammatical means of influencing the piece of message that the author considers to be the most valuable, the latest message.

The type of Textual Theme used in descriptive discourse are conjugated words *such as, and, etc.* which already contain a method of evaluation within the sensing. And, in the process of use, it is transformed into particles that create a connection with the previous discourse. For example, in *Naturally Like Hanoi People*, Nguyen Truong Quy writes:

(16) *Next, the planned French architecture and its relevance to the ancient town.* **But most of all** (TT) *the impression of talented literaries, the remained spiritual values as well as the elites* [*Old Town, Sword Lake... in the space of Hanoi*, p. 19].

(17) **The truth is** (TT)*, there is no longer a magical folk town. Now let's go all the way through the conventional triangle of "City" (please call the leaders of the city or departments by such initials, the kind of cadres and lower-level people still say when there is an upcoming inter – sectoral inspection by the city or the district...) occupying the entire northern area of North Lake in Hoan Kiem district, it is not possible to find out which*

corner was drawn by Mr. Phai. [*Hanoi: stories of old town, village town*, p.22].

The process of implementing the textual function of descriptive discourse is organized through the operation of structural coordination rules and characteristic usage. Hence, once the message is completed it will move into social practice and will be tested for effectiveness by the reader. However, in actuality, depending on the purpose of achieving communication, sometimes the author's message is not reflected directly and explicitly but only through the cohesion of sense between the state of affairs in each proposition. Therefore, it requires the reader to make inferences based on previous background knowledge to determine.

By arranging the structure of the clause in such an order, the author wants to enhance the ability to convey the message semantics right from the beginning. This easily creates cohesion between the previous message (old) and the following message (new) and also facilitates the deployment of content from the old message to the new, making the new message more prominent and attracting the readers' attention.

In examples (16) and (17), by arranging the syntactic structure in the order of combining the conjugated word, the user wants to impress the recipient with the value of the message from the beginning. We see that the conjugated word has a complementary role, increasing the expressive nuance and meaning of the message in the sentence. The conjugated word is mainly used to present or list events in a certain order, consistent with the message semantic to be reflected and to provide the message to the reader. So, it can be omitted without affecting the syntactical structure of the sentence.

The factor that regulates the construction of the message is the operating mechanism of the discourse that helps the author both explain and criticize unethical phenomena contrary to

cultural traditions, while also presenting and evaluating the economic situation - society hopes to receive feedback from readers. Therefore, the message is more inferential. We realize that the use of the Linguistic Theme to express the function of creating text in prose is only relative because the existence of events is often objective, but when reflected in discourse, the many are subjective because they depend on the user's cognitive activities.

3.3.3. Interpersonal Theme

Moreover, the content of the message that needs to be conveyed is always accompanied by the message of the user's attitude and opinion. The Interpersonal Theme is a type of Theme outside the message of the sentence that has the function of marking the focal point of the message to emphasize the event. This theme message component is related to the user's knowledge and beliefs. Through the survey, we found that the Interpersonal Theme is mainly used to highlight the message's focus, implying the concretization of opinions and attitudes to share personal experiences bearing the unique identity of each author. Choosing to use syntactic elements in communication is always the author's strategy, so the arrangement of Themes in such sentences is not completely random. This change of order, inevitably, has a certain communicative effect on the receiver. Surveying the descriptive discourse demonstrating the function of the Interpersonal Theme from the data, we obtain the following results:

Table 3. Statistics of descriptive discourse expressing the Interpersonal Theme

Interpersonal Theme	Quantity	Rate (%)
Maybe/ probably/ apparently	52	28.41
Indeed/ of course/ of	41	22.40

course/ That's true		
Surely/ must be	39	21.31
Even	23	12.56
Actually	16	8.74
It turns out/ Think about it	8	4.37
Also rare	4	2.21
Total	**183**	**100**

The Interpersonal Theme always contains subjective judgment and assessment, so the user usually tends to choose the old message as the starting point and the important part of the message will be placed at the back (the new). Observing Table 3., we can see that descriptive discourse expresses the function of the Interpersonal Theme mainly used to mark the message focus and to identify the content that needs to be announced. Thereby, identifying the partial relationship between the need to establish a message with the sense that needs to be conveyed, and with each part in the discourse structure.

Descriptive discourse is characterized by a linear structure, which governs the mechanism of action of the message in the text. This is an important factor that helps users know how to combine syntactic structural units according to a certain rule to form a message. Normally, to achieve the communicative purpose, the author will choose to use a characteristic syntax syntactic structure with suitable grammatical meaning. This means that the selection and arranging of appropriate and correct Interpersonal Themes is both the starting point and the reference point for all social events from each individual's sense of the real world. The user wants to emphasize and wants the reader to pay attention to it.

The Interpersonal Theme is used by the author not only to present important content but also to express a mood that affects the reader's emotions, creating understanding and sharing in the recipient. Although the number of the Interpersonal Theme is not used much in the essays, when used it clearly shows the author's creativity and ingenuity. For example in *Hanoi Has No Snow*, Do Phan writes:

(19) **How surprised** (IT) **it seems** (IT) **to be the destination** (TS) *of a modern civilized city that has never mentioned such ordinary things.* [*Slowly Spring Day*, p.12].

(20) **Come to think of it, it's not** (IT) **because the tree named Vo Uu** (TE) *is associated with the story that Prince Siddhartha was born under the shade of flowers in Lumbini's garden but became rare.* [*April Flowers*, p.92].

Through the survey, we found that the Interpersonal Theme is used completely separate from the message mentioned in the sentence. Content structure has a fairly regular correlation between discourse form and communication purpose. This not only contributes to expressing the discourse sense according to the purpose of speech but also expresses the illocutionary sense in textual because it includes the subjective assessment of the author. It is the coherence of content and connection of form that contributes to enhancing the logical persuasiveness of the message.

Most types of Interpersonal Themes are used extremely effectively in the essays, despite it can be seen that the number is not much, mainly the Unmarked Theme and this further confirms the brevity, conciseness, and direct reflection of the message. We think this is a clever and very artistic way of organizing the syntactic structure of the author. Normally, the message focus is where the author wants the recipient to focus attention to properly understand what they want to convey and this is an important factor that helps create

characteristic relationships between discourse sense and textual sense contributing to building, maintaining, and developing Theme. This reflects the complex relationship between messages as well as the multidimensional relationship in human perception and thinking.

4. CONCLUSION

When organizing the text, the author is forced to effectively use all functions of descriptive discourse to build a suitable strategy that brings high communication efficiency and influences the perception of the recipient. Thereby convincing them to agree with the assessment of the author. Therefore, any descriptive discourse carries the author's imprint and nuance, which means descriptive discourse is built according to a certain strategy, with a specific communication purpose based on the common perception of the community.

Each semantic content corresponds to a structural value, so the use of descriptive discourse helps demonstrate the function of the essay genre such as creating text, message semantics, persuading, and calling. So, they can exchange or discuss the social problem. We find that syntactic features realize text functions according to the formal structure of literary texts and the semantic structure of messages is very suitable for targeting many audiences, regardless of social groups such as age, gender, qualification, job, etc.

This means descriptive discourse is built according to the specific strategy, with a certain communication purpose. We only focus on examining the outstanding syntactic features of descriptive discourse as well as using characteristics when performing textual functions based on modern Vietnamese essay data. The process of analysis and comment is also limited to certain principles prescribed by the theoretical system of SFG.

In communication, the use of descriptive discourse will reflect the linguistic competence of the user and the receiver. Therefore, we believe that researching descriptive discourse is an issue that needs deeper and broader attention. Research results and discussion of the descriptive discourse not only help us understand the beauty of a language but also the history, culture, society, and humanity of a nation. On the other hand, the results will also the research will be a valuable source of material for future academic research as well as contribute to improving language teaching-learning, and the use of descriptive discourse in everyday life.

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ĐẶC ĐIỂM CẤU TRÚC CỦA DIỄN NGÔN MIÊU TẢ THỂ HIỆN CHỨC NĂNG VĂN BẢN TRONG TẢN VĂN VIỆT NAM HIỆN ĐẠI

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TÓM TẮT

Diễn ngôn là một thực thể phức tạp, linh hoạt trong một hệ thống biểu đạt ý nghĩa gồm nhiều cấp độ, có mối quan hệ chặt chẽ và biện chứng với nhau. Nguyên tắc cấu trúc cú pháp giúp người dùng định hình các thành phần diễn ngôn

phù hợp với nội dung và mục đích giao tiếp. Chúng bao gồm các quy tắc về cấu trúc câu, sự thống nhất giữa các thành phần trong câu và sự sắp xếp các từ để tạo nên nghĩa. Việc hiểu và sử dụng đúng cấu trúc cú pháp giúp người dùng diễn đạt đầy đủ ý tưởng một cách chính xác và logic. Với tính chất "mở" đặc trưng, diễn ngôn miêu tả là một "công cụ" hữu ích giúp các cá nhân cụ thể hóa hiện thực của thế giới đa chiều, nhiều mặt như nó vốn có. Do đối tượng nghiên cứu rất phức tạp nên chúng tôi áp dụng và kết hợp các phương pháp phân tích diễn ngôn, phương pháp phân tích ngữ nghĩa và phương pháp mô tả giúp chúng tôi xác định chính xác, đầy đủ và toàn diện các đặc điểm cấu trúc cú pháp hiện thực hóa chức năng tạo văn bản. Kết quả khảo sát không chỉ làm rõ các quy luật ý thức và vô thức trong hệ tư tưởng văn hóa - xã hội chi phối quá trình giao tiếp cũng như tính thẩm mỹ của diễn ngôn trong văn học mà còn khẳng định giá trị khoa học của lý thuyết Chức năng hệ thống ngữ pháp.