

## Vietnamese Linguistics over 30 Years of Renovation and Development

Nguyen Van Hiep\*

**Abstract:** This paper provides an overview of the key innovations and developments in Vietnamese linguistics over the last three decades of Doi moi. During 30 years, Vietnamese linguistics has witnessed the integration, acquisition and creative application of theories and trends learnt from modern linguistics to Vietnam. A panorama of Vietnamese prominent fields, authors, and works is sketched out. New approaches, including functional grammar, generative grammar, pragmatics, socio-linguistics, cognitive linguistics, computational linguistics, and speech-language pathology, have been taken into Vietnamese linguistics. The paper documents the contributions of seminal works to development of the fields, from newly minted approaches such as appraisal framework to traditional topics such as stylistics and general linguistics.

**Key words:** Vietnamese linguistics; functional grammar; pragmatics; ethnic minority languages; standardization of language; sociolinguistics; contrastive linguistics; applied linguistics.

### 1. General context

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam held in December 1986 became a significant landmark in the history of national development. Owing to the Congress, a new era of renovation was initiated, aiming at eliminating completely the subsidy mechanism, promoting all resources for national development, and targeting at international integration. The Congress laid emphasis on important roles of sciences and technology, including also the irreplaceable role of social sciences. As it is highlighted in the 6th Congress resolution, “Sciences and technology are the very dynamic for

socio-economic development... It is necessary to promote the efficient role of social sciences in carrying out theoretical work of the Party and building the socialist political program in our country for the transitional period...”

For over 30 years of renovation and development, a lot of important achievements have been gained. In addition to those in the economic, political and social spheres, there are also achievements in sciences - technology generally and social sciences specifically. It is possible to affirm that sciences and technology have actually

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\* Prof., Ph.D., Institute of Linguistics.

played a dynamic role for comprehensive social development in Doi moi.

In such a context, Vietnamese Linguistics quickly got integration with the world modern theories and trends, owing to which it has made remarkable advances in both theoretical and practical terms. Apart from basic research works with the previous approaches, which were mainly influenced by French, Chinese, and especially Soviet linguistics, in the period of Doi moi Vietnamese linguists started to apply new approaches from different perspectives, aiming at studying further interesting issues of Vietnamese language, which is viewed typical for isolating and uninflected languages. Research works on ethnic minority and foreign languages also benefited a lot from those new approaches.

Similar to the assessment made by Nguyen Thien Giap – the editor of the book “*Lược sử ngôn ngữ học*” (*Summary History of Linguistics*, the Educational Publishing House, 2005), we think that the renovation and development of Vietnamese linguistics for the past 30 years can be seen most obviously in its integration, acquisition and creative application of theories and trends learnt from modern linguistics to Vietnam. In this paper, we would like to present generally an overview of innovations and developments of Vietnamese linguistics in this significant period of history. We will not make a description horizontally by introducing achievements gained in turn by the Institute of Linguistics or research centers, departments and faculties of linguistics at universities, which have been traditionally studying linguistics and literature for a long

time (although each of those centers, departments, or faculties has its own achievements). Instead, we will focus on talking about the most prominent research areas in linguistics; for each of the research areas, we will also mention contributions as well as typical works made by research centers/individuals, of which the most outstanding is the contribution from the Institute of Linguistics in its capacity as a specialized research institution for the whole country.

## **2. Functional grammar**

### *2.1. Two variants of functional grammar*

Functional grammar with its two major variants, including the Functional Discourse Grammar presented by Simon C. Dik and the Systemic Functional Grammar presented by Michael Halliday, has caused great influence on Vietnamese linguistics. The functional grammar emphasizes the importance of the communicative function as a supreme decisive factor for all types of language expression, contrary to the generative grammar presented by Chomsky, according to which syntax is viewed relatively “autonomous” and the principles of syntax are considered independent with respect to semantics and use. Emphasizing the communicative and interactive functions, both Dik and Halliday analyzed functions of language in a wide framework of discourse, unlike previous approaches that just pay attention to the clause or sentence levels.

It can be said that before the functional grammar was introduced in Vietnam, description of Vietnamese sentences was mainly given within the traditional

grammar, in which the key objective was to describe: how a sentence was made; what components it was composed of; which parts of speech could be those components; and, what the rules for combining components in a sentence were. Overall, those descriptions were influenced by European linguistics, of which the viewpoint and concepts were set up on the basis of inflected languages. The functional grammar provided a new viewpoint that was more appropriate for isolating and uninflected languages like Vietnamese. In reality, this led to a movement against the viewpoint on considering European languages as the key to be applied in other languages. Cao Xuan Hao was typical for those who supported the movement.

According to our observations, the opinions described by Cao Xuan Hao in “*Tiếng Việt sơ thảo ngữ pháp chức năng*” (Draft Functional Grammar of Vietnamese Language, Volume 1, the Educational Publishing House, 1991) and other works consists of 5 main points as below:

a) It is suspicious about the appropriateness of using the subject - predicate structure as the main syntax to describe Vietnamese sentences. According to Cao Xuan Hao, the subject - predicate structure is only appropriate for description of European languages; whereas, for Vietnamese language, it is necessary to use another syntax, which is the theme – rheme structure. In Vietnamese language, the boundary between the theme and the rheme is defined by additional words like *thì, là, mà*.

b) It is suspicious about the existence of passive sentences in Vietnamese language. According to Cao Xuan Hao, a passive

sentence is a type of syntax that can be seen only in the subject-prominent languages, according to the classification made by Li and Thompson; it cannot be seen in the topic-prominent languages like Vietnamese; such words *được* and *bị* in Vietnamese language are stative predicate words but they are not formal words (as opposite to notional words) to be used to make passive sentences.

c) It is suspicious about the differentiation between “verb” and “adjective” on the basis of combination with demonstrative words (for verbs, these are the words that show the tense of the verbs such as *đã, đang, sẽ*; for adjectives, they are the words that show the extent of the adjectives such as *rất, hơi, quá, lắm*, etc.). In Cao Xuan Hao’s opinion, it is impossible to differentiate between verbs and adjectives in Vietnamese language as the two separate parts of speech, but we have to rely on a larger category, which is predicate words. In turn, predicate words are divided into smaller groups such as the predicate words showing action, the predicate words showing state, and the predicate words showing process, etc.

d) It is suspicious about the reasonableness of classifiers in Vietnamese language. According to Cao Xuan Hao, those that used to be viewed as classifiers (such as: *con, cái, cục, chiếc, hòn, tấm, bức*, etc.) have all attributes of nouns. In fact, they are count nouns, as opposite to mass nouns such as: *trâu, bàn, nhà, sinh viên*, etc. He argued that the central unit in the structure of a noun phrase was the unit noun but not the mass noun standing after it. He was also the first person to provide a complete list of unit nouns in Vietnamese.

e) It is suspicious about the existence of tense in Vietnamese as a grammar category to grammaticalize moments of time. In Vietnamese language, there are different means of vocabulary determining the time of activity; and, the tense is, consequently, dealt with in a wider stative frame.

Cao Xuan Hao also set up a range of basic issues for syntax research; for instance, what is a sentence? Is the sentence one of the units of language or speech? What is the semantic structure of a sentence? What is the classification of sentences by the meaning of expression and the classification of sentences by speech?, etc. His research works and ideas still remain valuable, leading to scientific debates on characteristics of Vietnamese sentences at present. In our opinion, the functional trend made by Cao Xuan Hao is relatively similar to the functional discourse grammar created by S. Dik.

The acquisition of the systemic functional grammar in Vietnam is closely attached to the translated version of Halliday's well-known work titled "An Introduction to Functional Grammar" (translated by Hoang Van Van, Hanoi National University Publishing House, First print in 2001). The theoretical framework set up by Halliday initiated the ground for a large number of research works on 3 metafunctions of language, including: ideational function, interpersonal function, and textual function, which are shown in the level of sentence and discourse. Concerning the ideational metafunction, in-depth research was carried out on specific processes, such as the process of relationship and the process of speech, from

the perspective of monosyllabic language (Vietnamese) or comparative languages (comparing Vietnamese with a foreign language).

## 2.2. Some function-based research works

The functional grammatical framework also helps to promote research works on Vietnamese in two tendencies, including the discourse analysis and the genre analysis. In the past, the research works on Vietnamese language at the level higher than sentence in the hierarchy was just carried out within the grammar of text, of which the key concept was cohesion. After *Doi moi*, the discourse analysis quickly became popular with the key concept of coherence. Together with the discourse analysis, there were also research works on register with the application of genre analysis. Emphasizing the relationship between language and society and viewing language as a practical factor and social custom, the Halliday's theoretical framework particularly inspired some research works in Vietnam to focus on critical discourse analysis, describing the language function-practice in relation to power - ideology and the system of other social relationships. Those research works were often conducted from the comparative perspective, especially in Vietnamese - English comparison. Outstanding authors, who have done research on the language unit larger than a sentence, include: Tran Ngoc Them with the publication titled "Vietnamese Document Linkage" (*Hệ thống liên kết văn bản tiếng Việt*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 1985); Nguyen Thi Viet Thanh - "Vietnamese Speech Linkage" (*Hệ thống liên kết lời nói tiếng Việt*, the

Educational Publishing House, 1999); Trinh Sam - “Document Titles in Vietnamese Language” (*Tiêu đề văn bản trong tiếng Việt*, the Educational Publishing House, 1999); Pham Van Tinh - “Abstraction and Syntactic Groups in Abstraction in Vietnamese Language” (*Phép tính lược và ngữ trực thuộc tính lược trong tiếng Việt*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 2002); Diep Quang Ban - “Communication - Document - Coherence - Linkage - Paragraph” (*Giao tiếp - Văn bản - Mạch lạc - Liên kết - Đoạn văn*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 2003); and, Nguyen Hoa - “Critical Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method” (*Phân tích diễn ngôn phê phán: Lí luận và phương pháp*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2006).

The Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar and especially his Systemic Functional Linguistics have caused obvious impacts on language education at school. By now, some linguistic works have been carried out according to the Appraisal Theoretical Framework, which is viewed to stem from Halliday’s attention to the interpersonal metafunction.

Talking about the functional research trend in Vietnam, it is impossible not to mention research works on modality. Since 1988, when Hoang Tue wrote a paper on introduction of the concept of modality (“On the Concept of Modality”, the *Linguistic Review*, Additional Vol.1, 1988), up to now, a lot of research works on Vietnamese modality have been done, elucidating some modality-showing means, such as modal verbs, modal particles, final modal particles, and modal expressions. With a diversified system of modal

expressions and final modal particles, Vietnamese language is very helpful for research on modal heterogloss. Highly-cited and significant contributions towards modal research have been made by Cao Xuan Hao, Le Dong, Pham Hung Viet, Hoang Dung, and Nguyen Van Hiep, etc.

### 3. Generative grammar

In the period of *Doi moi*, the function-inclined grammatical trends were more prominent in Vietnamese linguistics. It will be a mistake, however, if we do not mention research works on Vietnamese grammar with the trend of generative grammar. In the past, the generative grammar was just introduced very briefly in some works. Since 1986, there have been some authors applying Noam Chomsky’s theories (described in the newest versions, including the Government and Binding Theory and the Minimalism) to research works on Vietnamese language. Thanks to the spirit of innovation, international integration, and advanced technology, Vietnamese linguistics have received directly and rapidly a lot of international achievements in this trend. The most remarkable is Nigel Duffield’s research work. This is shown clearly in the Vietnamese Grammar Project online at the website <http://vietnamesegrammar.group.shef.ac.uk/index.php>. The research method of Nigel Duffield is also used to give answers to two following questions:

a) What does the theoretical framework of generative grammar help to interpret Vietnamese grammar?

b) Vice versa, what can data of Vietnamese language help to complete the theoretical framework of generative

grammar, in comparison with other languages (especially, the ones that are similar to Vietnamese language in terms of genre such as Chinese and Thai)?

Theoretically, Nigel Duffield was one of a few scholars in the school of minimalism, but he carried out research on the basis of the theory of lexicon-syntax interface. His approach focused on morphology, opposite to the functional approach; yet, he did not disregard the semantics. In *Doi moi*, Vietnamese junior researchers had opportunity to do their doctoral dissertation in England and the United States; they therefore did some research works on various aspects of Vietnamese grammar, based on the theoretical framework of generative grammar. Unfortunately, those works were all carried out abroad and have not been disseminated widely in Vietnam.

In the context that generative grammar still remains as a prominent trend in grammatical research of the world linguistics, we think Vietnamese linguistics should not stay away from this trend. In addition, another point making more and more Vietnamese linguistic works follow this trend is that the Minimalism could be better understood through Vietnamese, according to Nigel Duffield's assessment. In other words, Vietnamese is an ideal language for application of the Minimalism.

#### **4. Pragmatics**

Contrary to the trend of structuralism that inherently focuses on the model of stationary structure and relationships of elements in the linguistic system, pragmatics pays more attention to language in use and the ways in which context

contributes to meaning of speech. Pragmatics was introduced in Vietnam through basic works of some scholars, including Do Huu Chau with the publication titled "General Linguistics" (*Đại cương Ngôn ngữ học*, Vol.2, the Educational Publishing House, 1993); Nguyen Duc Dan - "Pragmatics" (*Ngữ dụng học*, Vol. 1, the Educational Publishing House, 1998); Nguyen Thien Giap - "Vietnamese Pragmatics" (*Dụng học Việt ngữ*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2000); Nguyen Quang - "Some Issues in Internal and Cross-cultural Communication" (*Một số vấn đề giao tiếp nội văn hóa và giao văn hóa*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2004); and, Do Thi Kim Lien - "Textbook of Pragmatics" (*Giáo trình Ngữ dụng học*, the Educational Publishing House, 2005). In the period of *Doi moi*, research works in Vietnamese pragmatics were conducted in some major fields, including: speech acts, conversational implicature, reference and deixis, talk in interaction, and cross-cultural communication. A lot of textbooks, monographs, and dissertations have been done, focusing on general issues of pragmatics as well as practice of Vietnamese language. By now, pragmatics is one of the indispensable disciplines in the literary and linguistic training courses at higher education. It is common that a majority of research works on Vietnamese pragmatics have been applied to literary works to be used for literary teachers' training in pedagogical universities. In this area alone, there are some prominent authors from Hanoi University of Education, such as: Nguyen Thi Luong,

Dang Thi Hao Tam, and Nguyen Thi Ngan Hoa, etc. The content of pragmatics also accounts for a considerable part of the literary teaching at school.

### 5. Socio-linguistics

Before *Doi moi*, socio-linguistics was too new in Vietnam. At present, however, the significance of socio-linguistics has been convincingly proved via research works. The development of socio-linguistics provides compensation for the shortcomings of Structuralism: While Structuralism focuses on internal structure of language regardless of individual and speech acts, Socio-linguistics focuses on giving systematic explanations for paroles due to the impact from language-external factors such as gender, social class, age, and location, etc. The Institute of Linguistics has had research works and publications, which show remarkable achievements in socio-linguistics in Vietnam. Fieldwork for socio-linguistic research has been conducted in some specific language communities in the North and the South as well as in different cultural sub-regions, both urban and rural ones. A particular method used for the fieldwork research is to record systematically natural speech of local people, aiming at not only getting further understanding of a category but also giving explanation for changes in the structure of a language/dialect due to the impact of social factors. Those changes are viewed as the key for historical linguistics, relating to development and existence of specific languages/dialects. Following initial research works on socio-linguistics made by Hoang Tue and Nguyen Nhu Y, at present the Institute of Linguistics is

Vietnam's leading socio-linguistic research institution with significant works that have proved the establishment and development of this research sub-branch in Vietnam. Herein, it is necessary to mention most outstanding works of Nguyen Van Khang, such as: "Socio-Linguistics: Basic Issues" (the Social Sciences Publishing House, 1999), "Socio-Linguistics" (the Educational Publishing House, 2012), and "Language Policy and Language Legislation in Vietnam" (the Social Sciences Publishing House, 2014). A range of major issues in socio-linguistics such as language context, language behavior, social multi-languages and multi-form language, socio-dialect, socio-linguistic contact and communication, language borrowing and code-switching, code-mixing, language standardization, language and gender, language and political and religious issues, language ecology, language policy, language planning, and language legislation, etc. have been studied on the basis of Vietnamese data.

Concerning Vietnamese socio-linguistic issues, we would like to emphasize the standardization and preservation of the purity of Vietnamese language. A lot of Vietnam's high-ranking leaders and linguists early paid special attention to those issues. By now, there have been many scientific conferences as well as valuable publications on standardization and preservation of the purity of Vietnamese language. In the period of *Doi moi*, a more open viewpoint on Vietnamese standardization was recognized, according to which the standardization should be attached closely to development and currently identified standards without any

impositions. Do Huu Chau argued: “It is impossible to use the past standards to make a conclusion that the language used currently is not pure and non-standard”.[9]

In reality, one of the tools to keep the standardization is the very highly prestigious dictionaries. Regarding to this, the Institute of Linguistics has published valuable dictionaries for the past time. Herein, it is impossible not to mention the extremely important role of the Vietnamese Dictionary edited by Hoang Phe and printed for the first time in 1988 (Da Nang Publishing House). It has been reprinted for many times until now and has been recognized as the most prestigious Vietnamese dictionary. Bilingual dictionaries edited by Le Kha Ke and colleagues have also made a significant contribution towards standardization and improvement of Vietnamese language in all aspects of life, especially in scientific disciplines. Researchers of the Institute of Linguistics have published various dictionaries, including: interpretational dictionaries, spelling dictionaries, foreign-name spelling dictionaries, dictionaries of abbreviation, etc. At present, those publications still remain highly appreciated in society and they are the first reference materials. Of those dictionaries, prominent are the dictionaries titled “Vietnamese Great Dictionary” (*Đại từ điển tiếng Việt*) and “Common Vietnamese Dictionary” (*Từ điển tiếng Việt thông dụng*) edited by Nguyen Nhu Y.

Together with the rapid development in all social aspects, the standardization has become a topical issue of Vietnamese linguistics and has attracted a lot of concern

from society since the beginning of *Doi moi*. One of the most effervescent debates is the social assessment of some language phenomena among young people. Although there are different opinions, they all assume that it is about time to set up and promulgate the Language Law in Vietnam.

Making a contribution towards building the Language Law in Vietnam, the Institute of Linguistics has carried out a comprehensive research program on various issues, such as: theoretical and practical issues for the language law building; terminology; education of the mother tongue for ethnic minority children; language attitude of ethnic minority people towards ethnic minority language and script; administrative language; mass media language; paper and online newspaper language; and, sign language for the deaf. The research program has provided scientific and practical grounds for the State to make appropriate policies on language issues, aiming at promulgating the Language Law in future. Particularly, some specialists of the Institute of Linguistics have been invited to the Editorial Board of the Revised Constitution in 2013, in which it is affirmed for the first time that Vietnamese language is the national language, but the use of languages and speeches of other ethnic groups should be always respected. It says: “The national language is Vietnamese. Yet, ethnic groups have the rights to use their own language and scripts, preserve their ethnic identity, and develop their valuable traditional customs and culture: (the Revised Constitution in 2013, Chapter 1, Article 5, Term 3).

Socio-linguistic issues are closely related to anthropological, ethnographic, and cultural ones. Consequently, a multi-



disciplinary research trend for linguistic, cultural, and social issues has been set up. One of the theoretical attempts to strengthen this multi-disciplinary trend is the fact that the Institute of Linguistics has collaborated with other institutions in translating the world classic works on anthropological linguistics, ethno-linguistics, and cultural linguistics. The outcome of their collaboration was printed in a publication titled “Language and Socio-Culture: An inter-disciplinary approach” (the World Publishing House, 2006). For research on the relationship between language, thinking and ethnic cultural characteristics, which can be named generally as cultural linguistics, the Institute of Linguistics has published Nguyen Duc Ton’s significant work titled “Ethnic cultural characteristics in language and thinking” [21].

As language is an important part of culture, many authors have tried to link two these areas together. In this field, some names can be enumerated, such as: Cao Xuan Hao with the publication titled “Vietnamese Language, Vietnamese Literature, and Vietnamese People” (*Tiếng Việt, văn Việt, người Việt*, the Youth Publishing House, 2003); Nguyen Duc Duong – “Searching Back for the Spirit of Vietnamese Language” (*Tìm về linh hồn tiếng Việt*, the Youth Publishing House, 2003); and, Trinh Sam – “Search for the Identity of Vietnamese Language” (*Đi tìm bản sắc của tiếng Việt*, the Youth Publishing House, 2004). With the linguistic approach particularly, some linguists have done research beyond the linguistic boundary, becoming well-known

cultural scholars. They are: Phan Ngoc with the publications “To Study Nguyen Du’s Style in Truyen Kieu” (*Tìm hiểu phong cách Nguyễn Du trong Truyện Kiều*, the Youth Publishing House, 1985) and “Vietnamese Cultural Identity” (*Bản sắc văn hóa Việt Nam*, the Literature Publishing House, 1988); Pham Duc Duong with the publications “Vietnamese Culture in the Context of Southeast Asia” (*Văn hóa Việt Nam trong bối cảnh Đông Nam Á*, 2000), “From Culture to Cultural Study” (*Từ văn hóa đến văn hóa học*, 2002), and “Southeast Asian Cultures” (*Văn hóa Đông Nam Á*, 2001); and, Tran Ngoc Them with the publications “Searching for Vietnamese Cultural Identity: an Insight of Genre and System” (*Tìm về bản sắc văn hóa Việt Nam. Cái nhìn hệ thống - loại hình*, Ho Chi Minh City Publishing House, 1996 first print and many reprints), “Cultural Study: Theories and Application” (*Những vấn đề văn hóa học: lý luận và ứng dụng*, the Literature – Art Publishing House, 2013, and reprinted in 2014), and “Vietnamese Culture in the Southwest Vietnam” (*Văn hóa người Việt vùng Tây Nam Bộ*, the Literature - Art Publishing House, 2013, and reprinted in 2014). In all those publications, the authors did not forget their advantage in linguistics, although they talked about a larger area - culture. They tried to combine the linguistic and cultural approaches to carry out a more systematic research work. One of the examples is Tran Ngoc Them’s article “Sit and Go or Stable and Changing in Vietnamese Cultural Values on the Basis of Linguistic Data” (*Ngồi và đi hay ổn định và biến động trong hệ giá trị văn hóa truyền thống Việt Nam qua cú liệu ngôn ngữ*), which was published in the Review Encyclopedia, Vol.6, 2014.

In the area of linguistic and cultural combination, furthermore, it is impossible not to mention Nguyen Tai Can and Tran Tri Doi with their research works on original words as well as Nguyen Xuan Hoa with valuable papers on national cultural identity shown in idioms.

## 6. Cognitive linguistics

Cognitive Linguistics is a relatively new linguistic school that came out into society in the 1970s as a challenge to the linguistic formalist school, of which the most typical was Chomsky's Generative Grammar. It is one of the revolutionary approaches that have resulted in much interest in linguistic research and the triangular relationship of language, thinking, and culture. Cognitive linguistic research works, especially those that were carried out from the comparative perspective, have made an important contribution towards identification of thinking and cultural characteristics of ethnic groups through their languages. Modern cognitive linguistics takes part in strengthening the theoretical ground of Humboldt, a German philosopher, who viewed language as the national soul. His viewpoint is rather similar to the Weak Version of Sapir-Whorf's hypothesis, according to which language affects the thinking of the ethnic group using it. Langacker, Lakoff, Talmy and Fauconnier are considered the first people who contributed a part towards the formation of cognitive linguistics.

In the context of international integration, cognitive linguistics was absorbed in Vietnam through popular works of Lakoff, Johnson, and Langacke, etc. In

Vietnamese language materials, there are two authors publishing early works in this trend, including: Ly Toan Thang with the publication "Cognitive Linguistics: From General Theory to Practice in Vietnamese Language" (*Ngôn ngữ học tri nhận - Từ lý thuyết đại cương đến thực tiễn tiếng Việt*) [18] and Tran Van Co with "Cognitive Linguistics: Notes and Thinking (*Ngôn ngữ học tri nhận - Ghi chép và suy nghĩ*)" [38]. It is, however, noticeable that earlier Nguyen Lai already carried out a research work with the cognitive linguistic approach, although he did not use the same term. His publication is "Semantics of the Group of Words Indicating Movement Directions in Modern Vietnamese: Formation and Development" (*Ngữ nghĩa của nhóm từ chỉ hướng vận động trong tiếng Việt hiện đại: quá trình hình thành và phát triển*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 2001). For the past 5 or 7 years, a large number of dissertations have been done with the cognitive linguistic approach; they mainly focus on conceptual metaphors in Vietnamese language or comparison between Vietnamese language and another language. Other issues that have attracted less attention include: prototype, radial categories, figure-ground relation, space and special meaning extension, and embodiment, etc. Of all authors who have carried out in-depth research on conceptual metaphors of Vietnamese language as well as who have verified and revised theoretical grounds for embodiment on the basis of Vietnamese vocabulary, it is necessary to mention Trinh Sam and some other researchers who have had papers and case studies of the words relating to the

conception of waterways, human body parts, sentimental categories, and space in Vietnamese language.

Cognitive linguistics has affected a lot of Vietnamese linguists, such as Le Quang Thiem with his opinion on semantic layers (*Semantics*, the Educational Publishing House, 2008) and Dinh Van Duc with his opinion on parts of speech (*Language and Thinking: an Approach*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2013).

### **7. Research on ethnic minority languages**

Vietnam is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual nation, where people of 54 ethnic groups live together in the same territory, of which Kinh people account for a majority (85.72%). In addition to Vietnamese language, which is the mother tongue of Kinh people as well as the national language of Vietnam, people of every ethnic group have their own language. Some ethnic groups also have their own scripts belonging to different handwriting groups such as the Pali-sanskrit, the Pictographic, the Latin, and the Arabic.

According to the Party's clear and consistent guidelines on ethnic and language issues, all ethnic groups in the territory of Vietnam get the same equality, unity and respect; they should provide each other with mutual help for general development; and, they all have the right to use their mother tongue. In fact, ethnic minority language is always seen as one of the contents of the ethnic minority policy. The sound viewpoint of the Party has been concretized appropriately through language policies promulgated by the Government in specific periods of history. The Government

considers ethnic minority languages particularly important for preservation of ethnic identity as well as national stabilization and development.

The sound guidelines and policies of the Party and the State have created a favorable grounds for research works on ethnic minority languages in Vietnam. Research on ethnic minority languages was initially carried out in 1954, immediately after the establishment of the Team of Linguistics (a part of the former Department of Literature, History, and Geography), which is the precursor of the current Institute of Linguistics (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences), and the Division of Linguistics (a part of the Department of Literature, former Hanoi University), which is the precursor of the current Department of Linguistics (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University, Hanoi). Up to now, a lot of research works and scientific projects on ethnic minority languages have been done, showing characteristics of language structure (phonetics, vocabulary, and grammar), origin, genre, and language context. Remarkably, in addition to continuing research cooperation with linguists from Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, since the beginning of *Doi moi* we have also set up research cooperation on ethnic minority languages with linguists from other countries such as France, the United States, and Australia.

In the overall picture of ethnic minority language research in Vietnam, the Institute of Linguistics is completely prominent as the leading institution. Following are research programs/projects and significant

works conducted by the Institute of Linguistics and universities in Vietnam for the past 30 years:

- *“Language Policy-related Issues in Vietnam”* (1993) - a collection of papers presented at the scientific conference “National Language, Ethnic Minority Languages and Development” held by the National Center for Social Sciences and Humanities in May 1993.

- *“Comprehensive Fundamental Survey on Ethnic Minority Languages in Vietnam for the Period 1994 - 1999”* – a project conducted by the Institute of Linguistics.

- *“The Language Policy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the Period 1998 - 2000”* - a State-level independent project conducted by the Institute of Linguistics.

- *“Actual State of Language Education in the Ethnic Minority Areas in Some Mountainous Provinces of Vietnam”* (1999) and *“Actual State of Language Education in the Ethnic Minority Areas of Three Mountainous Provinces in North Vietnam: Recommendations and Solutions”* (2004) - the final report of the National University project on language education in the ethnic minority areas in three northern provinces conducted by Tran Tri Doi.

- *“Research on Preservation and Development of Ethnic Minority Languages and Cultures in Viet Bac”* (2004 - 2005) - a State-level project conducted by Thai Nguyen University of Education.

- *“Research Survey on Ethnic Minority Languages for Identification of Ethnicity in Vietnam”* (2001 - 2006) - a research program conducted by the Institute of Linguistics.

- *“Researching, Collecting, and Coding Traditional Scripts of Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam”* (2001 - 2006) - a research project conducted by the Institute of Linguistics.

- *“Panorama of Languages in Vietnam”* (2009 - 2010) - a research project conducted by the Institute of Linguistics;

- *“Basic Issues on the Language Policy in Vietnam towards 2020”*, (2009 - 2010) - a Ministry-level project conducted by the Institute of Linguistics;

- *“Vietnam - Soviet Union Research Collaborative Program on Ethnic Minority Languages in Vietnam”*, which was followed by *“Vietnam - Russian Research Collaborative Program”*, consisting many phases since the late 1970s. The program aimed at collecting literature and data for identification of language origin and characteristics and preservation of languages. Surveys were conducted on more than 30 languages in all three regions of Vietnam. There have been monographs on some ethnic minority languages, such as Mường, La Ha, Pu Péo, Xinh Mun, Ca Tu, Rục, and Cơ Lao available in Russian language.

- *Research Program on Khmer* conducted by Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Ho Chi Minh City National University). Some major findings of the program are presented in the publication *“Education for Khmer People in Mekong Delta”* (2005).

The authors, whose works have been cited most in the field of ethnic minority language research in Vietnam, are Nguyen Van Loi, Tran Tri Doi, Pham Duc Duong, Doan Thien Thuat, Mai Ngoc Chu, Bui

Khanh The, Dinh Le Thu, Nguyen Van Tai, Hoang Van Ma, Doan Van Phuc, Nguyen Van Khang, Ta Van Thong, Nguyen Huu Hoanh, Phan Van Phuc, and Le Khac Cuong with valuable works from different perspectives; for example: general research on ethnic minority languages; in-depth research on a specific ethnic minority language; in-depth research on specific aspects such as phonetics, vocabulary, and grammar; research on the language origin or language contact; research on preservation of culture and script of ethnic minority language; research on language context; and, research on language policy and education for ethnic minorities.

To make Vietnamese linguistics attach closely to the national sustainable development, we think that it is necessary to continue basic research works on language structure, aiming at getting a comprehensive view of ethnic minority languages in Vietnam. Research is really needed to set up written language for the ethnic minorities that do not have it yet. At the same time, it is necessary to do research on other aspects, such as: research on changes in the language context involved with industrialization and modernization; research on ethnic minority language education; research on languages in danger; and, research on language as a criterion for ethnic identification. These are major objectives of a State-level scientific program to be conducted in the coming years by Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, in which the Institute of Linguistics will play the key role. The program title is “*Urgent Issues for Preservation and Development of the Role*

*and Identity of Ethnic Minority Languages in Vietnam, for Contribution towards National Sustainable Development in the Period of Industrialization, Modernization, and International Integration*”.

## 8. Applied linguistics

Before *Doi moi*, applied linguistics mainly mentioned language teaching (foreign language teaching for Vietnamese and Vietnamese teaching for foreigners). Since *Doi moi*, however, applied linguistics has been promoted in various area with the tendency of integration and development.

### 8.1. Language education

In Vietnam, language education consists of some significant areas, such as: Vietnamese teaching for children at school; Vietnamese teaching for foreigners; mother tongue teaching for ethnic minority children; and, language teaching for disabled children.

Regarding to Vietnamese teaching at school, the awareness has positively changed. For the past few years especially, Vietnamese teaching has switched from the structure - systematic method (shown in the teaching of concepts used to describe various aspects of Vietnamese language) to the ability development method; at the same time, the text-using capacity is understood in the broad sense, including not only written texts but also multimodal texts.

Regarding to Vietnamese teaching for foreigners, there has been also a change from the structure-systematic method, in which grammar and translation are the most important, to the communication teaching.

Regarding to the mother tongue teaching for ethnic minority children, there have

been now 7 ethnic minority languages being taught at primary school. The mother tongue teaching for ethnic minority children has encountered certain difficulties, due to many reasons; for example, people of different ethnic groups live together in the same place; many ethnic groups haven't had their own written language yet; or, an ethnic group has its own written language, but it can be hardly used because they have too many dialects.

To make assessments of the Vietnamese teaching at school and the mother tongue teaching for ethnic minority children, some important quantitative as well as qualitative research works have been done by Vu Thi Thanh Huong and researchers of the Department of Applied Linguistics (the Institute of Linguistics).

Regarding to the language teaching for disabled children, some research works on sign language have been carried out by researchers from the Center for Language Rehabilitation (the Institute of Linguistics); for example, several ministry-level projects have been done on different aspects of this type of language. Those projects aimed at providing assistance for the sign-language teaching at the schools for deaf children. In addition, there have been research works on language teaching for autistic children as well as the children who have difficulty in using language. The most remarkable are empirical research projects conducted at schools of disabled children in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

### *8.2. Computational linguistics*

Computational Linguistics is a product of the era of information technology. It is

an inter-disciplinary science that focuses on modeling of natural languages on the basis of statistic data and language rules. It has resulted in different applications in machine translation and development of artificial intelligence, etc. In reality, IT experts and linguists have collaborated in carrying out some research works on the Treebank of word classes and the frame-net of Vietnamese language. Some preliminary achievements have been gained. Although it is a completely new research area in Vietnam, it surely will develop very rapidly in near future. Outstanding authors following this research trend are Dinh Dien and Nguyen Phuong Thai.

### *8.3. Research on language pathology and functional rehabilitation*

In Doi moi, linguists cooperated with medical doctors from some big hospitals in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in carrying out research on language pathology (mainly involved with language disability) and language functional rehabilitation. Nguyen Van Loi is a researcher, who has a lot of works in this area.

### *8.4. Research on translation*

Although controversy still remains, research on translation is generally viewed as a subject of linguistics by its nature and as a part of applied linguistics. For the entire period of Doi moi, Vietnam has developed its relations with many countries in different spheres. As a result, the role of translation has been increasingly more important; and, research on translation has been highly appreciated. The translation-related central issues that have been discussed a lot are: translational equivalent

concepts; translation evaluating criteria; and, translating methods. The translators, who have been most mentioned and cited, are: Hoang Van Van and Le Hung Tien (English to Vietnamese and vice versa); Vu Van Dai (French to Vietnamese and vice versa); and, Nguyen Thuong Hung and Nguyen Hong Con (general translating theories).

### **9. Research on geographic dialects and history of Vietnamese language**

After the country unification (1975), favorable conditions were provided for research on dialects. Concerning the criteria for division of geographic dialects in Vietnam, Hoang Thi Chau is one of the authors, whose works have been most cited. Her works describe characteristics and changes of Vietnamese dialects by region, including two publications: *Vietnamese language in different regions of the country* (“Tiếng Việt trên các miền đất nước, 1989) and *Vietnamese dialect study* (“Phương ngữ học tiếng Việt”, 2005). In Doi moi, flows of migration occurred in company with industrialization and modernization, leading to research works on speech contacts as well as changes in some migrant communities. The socio-linguistic approach has been, therefore, used to deal with geographic dialects (for example, Trinh Cam Lan used the wave theory to explain phonetic changes among migrants in Hanoi). Making attempts to do dialect research, a lot of authors have made significant contributions towards the dictionaries of dialects, such as Nguyen Nha Ban, Hoang Trong Oanh, Nguyen Nhu Y, Dang Ngoc Le, Phan Xuan Thanh, Huynh Cong Tin, Pham Van Hao, Dang

Thanh Hoa, Bui Minh Duc, Nguyen Ngoc Lap, and Nguyen Thuy Nga, etc.

History of Vietnamese language has been described in the research works on changes of specific phonemes by a number of authors, including Vuong Loc, Pham Duc Duong, Nguyen Tai Can, Trang Tri Doi, and Hoang Dung, etc. It has been also presented in valuable monographs on the phonetic state, vocabulary, and grammar in specific historical periods by Doan Thien Thuat, Le Quang Thiem, Vu Duc Nghieu, and Dinh Van Duc, etc. Contributing a part towards research on Vietnamese language history, there are some significant works conducted by Nguyen Tai Can and Nguyen Quang Hong on pronunciation of Sino-Vietnamese words and Pham Duc Duong, Nguyen Van Loi, and Tran Tri Doi on phonemes and vocabularies of ethnic minority languages in the same family with Vietnamese language.

### **10. Comparative linguistic research**

In Doi moi, we witnessed a lot of valuable comparative linguistic works. Firstly, it is necessary to mention the publication “Comparative Research on Languages” (*Nghiên cứu đối chiếu các ngôn ngữ*) of Le Quang Thiem [17]. This work did set up a foundation for the principles of comparative linguistics in Vietnam. Comparative linguistic principles, aspects, and methods were then described in more detail by Bui Manh Hung with additional language data in the publication “Comparative Linguistics” (*Ngôn ngữ học đối chiếu*)[2]. In addition, it is impossible not to enumerate a wide range of research reports and dissertations that made a comparison between Vietnamese and other

foreign languages, such as Russian, English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Khmer, Malayu, and Thai, etc.

# **11. Theoretical research works on general linguistics, phonetics, grammar, semantics, and stylistics.**

The research works on general linguistics, phonetics, vocabulary, grammar, and stylistics are always considered as the mainstream of the world as well as Vietnamese linguistics. Before 1986, great results were achieved in various areas of this mainstream with well-known scholars in the history of Vietnamese linguistics. Owing to international academic exchange promoted in Doi moi, more and more significant achievements have been gained together with the tendency of renovation, integration and development. In the area of general linguistics, there have been remarkable publications, such as: “Language and Thinking: General Linguistics” (*Ngôn ngữ và tư duy - Ngôn ngữ học đại cương*, Vol. 1, Nguyen Lai, 1997); “Textbook of Linguistics (*Giáo trình ngôn ngữ học*, Nguyen Thien Giap, 2010); “General Linguistics: The Key Contents” (*Ngôn ngữ học đại cương - Những nội dung quan yếu*, Dinh Van Duc, 2012); and, “Language and Thinking: An Approach” (*Ngôn ngữ và tư duy - Một tiếp cận*, Dinh Van Duc, 2013). It is also necessary to mention Nguyen Hong Con’s theoretical reports on the nature and role of the subject - predicate and theme - rhyme structures as well as syntax genres and translational equivalence, etc.

Regarding to phonetics, apart from Doan Thien Thuat’s classic work titled “Vietnamese Phonetics” (*Ngữ âm tiếng*

*Việt*, the Higher Educational Publishing House, first print in 1975 and a lot of reprints afterwards), a prominent work in the period of Doi moi is “Phonology and Linearity” (Cao Xuan Hao, first print in French in 1985 as “Phonologie et linéarité” and in Vietnamese in 2001 as “*Âm vị học và tuyến tính*”). Nguyen Quang Hong published an important theoretical work titled “Syllables and Language Genres” (*Âm tiết và loại hình ngôn ngữ*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 1994). Hoang Dung and Vuong Huu Le shared a co-publication on basic phonetics titled “Textbook of Vietnamese Phonetics” (*Giáo trình ngữ âm tiếng Việt*, the Pedagogical University Publishing House, 1994). In addition, Hoang Dung published some papers on phonemes and phonemic compounds from the synchronic and diachronic perspectives. Regarding to empirical phonetics, the Department of Phonetics (the Institute of Linguistics) is a prestigious address with empirical phonetic scholars such as Vu Ba Hung, Hoang Cao Cuong, and Vu Kim Bang, etc. Continuing the empirical tendency, the Department is now collaborating with the Institute of Sciences and Technology (Vietnam Academy of Sciences and Technology) and the Institute of Criminal Science (the Ministry of Public Security) in carrying out a research project on voice recognition and sound verification.

Regarding to the area of vocabulary and semantics, besides research works of well-known lexical scholars from the former Hanoi University and the former Hanoi Pedagogical University such as Nguyen Van Tu, Do Huu Chau, and Nguyen Thien



Giap, a lot of important research reports and publications have been done since the beginning of Doi moi; for example, research works of Hoang Van Hanh (on idioms), Nguyen Duc Ton (on the vocabulary - semantic relationship), Ha Quang Nang (on word-class change, terminology, and terminological theories), Le Trung Hoa and Pham Tat Thang (on proper names), and Nguyen Cong Duc (on Vietnamese morphology and semantics). Of all the current research concerns involved with vocabulary and semantics, the most outstanding ones are lexical - semantic category, lexical identification and onomatopoeia, and terminology, etc. Recently, in the framework of a ministry - level project titled “*Some Basic and Topical Issues of Vietnamese Vocabulary and Semantics*” (2014), Nguyen Duc Ton reviewed some theoretical problems, raising doubts about vocabulary pragmatism, reduplicative, and word-meaning structure in Vietnamese language, etc. This research work has aroused a lot of controversies by now.

Regarding to grammar, the most prominent publication in the period of Doi moi is the first volume of “Vietnamese language: Draft Functional Grammar” by Cao Xuan Hao, as mentioned above [4]. The publication “Vietnamese Language: Several Issues on Phonetics, Grammar, and Semantics” (*Tiếng Việt - mấy vấn đề ngữ âm, ngữ pháp, ngữ nghĩa*, the Educational Publishing House, 1999) is a collection of papers written by Cao Xuan Hao over 4 decades. It shows his profound comments and analyses of Vietnamese language. It is also the book that has affected greatly Vietnamese linguists, resulting in a breath

of fresh air in Vietnamese linguistics in the period of international integration. In addition, there have been significant works of other authors; for example, Diep Quang Ban with his publications based on the viewpoint of traditional grammar (1989) and functional grammar (2004); Nguyen Thi Quy with “Vietnamese Action Predicate and Its Arguments” (*Vị từ hành động tiếng Việt và những tham tố của nó*, the Social Sciences Publishing House, 1995); Bui Minh Toan with “Vietnamese Grammatical Textbook” (*Giáo trình ngữ pháp tiếng Việt*, the University of Education Publishing House, 2008); Hoang Trong Phien with “Vietnamese Grammar: Sentence” (*Ngữ pháp tiếng Việt - Câu*, the Educational Publishing House, re-print, 2008); and, Nguyen Cao Dam with “Vietnamese Grammar: A Simple Sentence with Two Components” (*Ngữ pháp tiếng Việt - Câu đơn hai thành phần*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2008). Especially, Nguyen Minh Thuyet has presented very valuable papers, in which the conception of Soviet Union scholars of Orient studies was applied and adjusted to recognize and describe the sentence components according to a strict process on the basis of form criteria with the ins and outs of semantics and functions. This process was described systematically by Nguyen Minh Thuyet (as the editor) in the monograph “Components of Vietnamese Sentence” (*Thành phần câu tiếng Việt*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, first print 1998; the Educational Publishing House, reprints 2004 and 2014). The way to describe the sentence components in this work was chosen by

many computational linguistic experts to make the algorithm for the processing of Vietnamese syntax-related issues.

For morphology alone, apart from the traditional viewpoint based on the general meaning and grammatical characteristics, Dinh Van Duc applied the functional viewpoint to word-class identification as shown in the publication titled “Vietnamese Grammar: Word Classes, Supplementary” (*Ngữ pháp tiếng Việt - Từ loại, viết bổ sung*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2001). In the meanwhile, Nguyen Hong Con suggested use the ability criteria as an actant or a circonstants for identification of Vietnamese word class, as mentioned in the paper “On the Word-class Identification in Vietnamese Language” (“Về vấn đề phân loại từ loại trong tiếng Việt”, *the Review “Linguistics”*, Vol.2, 2003).

Before Doi moi, the Institute of Linguistics was very prominent in the field of grammatical research with well-known authors such as Nguyen Kim Than, Hoang Tue, Luu Van Lang, and Le Xuan Thai. Their collective publication titled “Vietnamese Grammar” (*Ngữ pháp tiếng Việt*, the Committee of Social Sciences, 1983) was seen as a national significant work. In Doi moi, Ly Toan Thang carried out some grammatical research works specialized in the structure of sentence segments and the word order, such as “Theory on Word Order in the Syntax” (*Lý thuyết trật tự từ trong cú pháp*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2004). Following the trend of semantic grammar, recently Nguyen Van Hiep published two of his works, including “The Semantic Basis for Syntax Analysis” (*Cơ*

*sở ngữ nghĩa phân tích cú pháp*, the Educational Publishing House, 2008, reprint in 2012) and “Vietnamese Syntax” (*Cú pháp tiếng Việt*, the Educational Publishing House, 2009, reprinted by Hanoi National University Publishing House in 2015). Based on analysis of various meaning types in a sentence, including the descriptive meaning, the stative meaning, the thematic meaning, and the speech-purposive meaning, in those two works the author suggested a set of corresponding sentence components to describe Vietnamese sentence, affirming that it was an appropriate radical function-to-form language, as verbalized by Jan Nuyts, a Belgian scholar: “to use the semantic category as a start to find out its linguistic expressions”.

Overall, talking about research works on Vietnamese grammar published from the beginning of Doi moi up to now, it is necessary to mention Hoang Van Van (empirical grammar of Vietnamese syntax), Pham Hung Viet (Vietnamese particles), Tran Van Phuoc (passive sentence), Dao Thanh Lan (analysis of Vietnamese simple sentence by the theme - rheme structure), Phan Mau Canh (simple component sentence), Lam Quang Dong (3-actant sentence), Nguyen Van Chinh (word-class), Chim Van Be (Vietnamese Functional Grammar), Tran Kim Phuong (tense and voice indicating words in Vietnamese language), and Le Thi Lan Anh (Vietnamese relational sentence), etc.

Regarding to semantics, besides previously prestigious textbooks of semantics written by Do Huu Chau and Nguyen Thien Giap, some significant

semantic works have been done recently, such as: “Semantics” (*Ngữ nghĩa học*, the Educational Publishing House, 2008) and “Development of Vietnamese Vocabulary Meanings for the Period from 1945 to 2015” (*Sự phát triển nghĩa từ vựng tiếng Việt - từ 1945 đến 2015*, Hanoi National University Publishing House, 2015) by Le Quang Thiem; “Meanings of the Language Signs” (*Nghĩa của tín hiệu ngôn ngữ*, Vietnam Educational Publishing House, 2011) by Do Viet Hung; and, “Vietnamese Semantics” (*Nghĩa học Việt ngữ*, Vietnam Educational Publishing House, 2014) by Nguyen Thien Giap. Of all issues in Vietnamese linguistics for the period from 1986 up to now, it can be said that researchers have paid most attention to semantic ones, from vocabulary meanings to grammatical and in-use meanings. This is a common trend of the world linguistics due to the impact of Functional and Cognitive theories.

Regarding to stylistics, the works that have been cited most for the past 30 years still remain the valuable publications of Cu Dinh Tu (1983), Dinh Trong Lac (1994), Nguyen Thai Hoa (1997), and Huu Dat (1999). Concerning application of linguistics to literary explanations, there have been some outstanding authors, including: Phan Ngoc with “How to Explain Literature by Linguistics” (*Cách giải thích văn học bằng ngôn ngữ học*, the Youth Publishing House, 2000) and “To Study Nguyen Du’s Style in Truyen Kieu” (*Tìm hiểu phong cách Nguyễn Du trong Truyện Kiều*, the Youth Publishing House, 2001); Dao Than with “On Yellow Rice Straw” (*Một sợi rơm vàng*, the Youth Publishing House, 2001); Mai Ngoc Chu with “Vietnamese Poetry in

the Light of Linguistics” (*Văn thơ Việt Nam dưới ánh sáng ngôn ngữ học*, the Culture-Information Publishing House, 2006); and, Bui Minh Toan with “Language with Literature” (*Ngôn ngữ với văn chương*, the University of Education Publishing House, 2015). We hope there will be more and more significant works in the area of stylistics, based on the recent achievements of pragmatics, prosody, cognitive metrics, and quantitative stylistics.

## 12. For conclusion

The above part describes an outline of Vietnamese linguistics for the past 30 years of renovation and development. This paper is made according to the “impressive” style of the Impressionism in art; i.e. we just emphasize the fields, authors, and works that are considered in our opinion as the most impressive. Consequently, some fields (such as language contact, language and telecommunication, etc.) as well as some important authors and works are not mentioned fully in this paper. We, therefore, hope to get readers’ understanding and we will add information to make the paper more complete on another occasion.

What makes us feel really inspired is that most of Vietnamese linguistic works have been effectively applied to practice of social life and linguistic training. Following is a lively example for this. Owing to combination between research and training, the Department of Linguistics of the Graduate Academy of Social Sciences (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) has been a leading post-graduate institution with more than 100 doctoral students in

different branches of linguistics for the past 5 years. This is a convincingly remarkable figure, reflecting high quality and efficiency in training work based on tenacious and enthusiastic labor of linguists from Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and its partner training institutions as well.

To conclude this paper, we would like to give an image for comparison: Before Doi moi, if we visited a Vietnamese linguist's home, we could see mainly Russian publications in the bookshelf; whereas, in Doi moi, most of publications owned by linguists are mainly in English and Vietnamese. This demonstrates that Vietnamese linguistics has gained significant advances in innovation, development and international integration for the past 30 years, owing to our increasingly greater exchange and integration into the world linguistics.

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