

BIỂU HIỆN THỜI GIAN TRONG TIẾNG VIỆT TƯƠNG ỨNG THỜI TRONG TIẾNG NHẬT

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Trong tiếng Việt, biểu hiện về thời gian không được xác định bằng hình thái vĩ tố của từ như các ngôn ngữ có phạm trù thời rõ rệt. Biểu hiện thời gian trong tiếng Việt là một phạm trù liên từ vựng-ngữ pháp, hoạt động trong cơ chế “ngầm định” và “tiết kiệm”. Cơ chế này trước hết nằm ở tư duy chung và phổ quát của ngôn ngữ. Thông qua khảo sát một số tác phẩm tiếng Nhật được dịch sang tiếng Việt và tác phẩm tiếng Việt được dịch sang tiếng Nhật, nghiên cứu chỉ ra những đặc thù nhất định liên quan đến tư duy biểu đạt thời gian của người Nhật và mối quan hệ tương ứng về thời giữa hai loại hình ngôn ngữ khác biệt là tiếng Nhật và tiếng Việt. Kết quả nghiên cứu góp phần cải thiện việc học tập và sử dụng tiếng Nhật hiệu quả hơn.

Từ khóa: biểu hiện thời gian, thời, phạm trù liên từ vựng - ngữ pháp, “ngầm định”, “tiết kiệm”.

In Vietnamese, time expressions are not determined by the suffixes in languages with clear temporal references. Expression of time in Vietnamese is a lexical-grammatical category that operates in the "implicit" and "thrifty" mechanism. This mechanism lies first in the general and universal linguistic thinking. Through a survey on several Japanese works translated into Vietnamese and Vietnamese works translated into Japanese, this study points out certain characteristics related to the time expression of the Japanese and the corresponding relationship in terms of tenses between the two distinct languages: Japanese and Vietnamese. The research findings contribute to the improvement of learning and more effective use of the Japanese language.

Keywords: time expression, tense, lexical-grammatical category, "implicit", "thrifty".

TIME EXPRESSIONS IN VIETNAMESE IN RELATION TO TENSES IN JAPANESE

Introduction

From the point of view of traditional grammarians, tense translated from the Latin "Tempus" is a category concerned with temporal relationships expressed by systematic grammatical oppositions of

verbs and recognized by three opposites: past, present, and future. This is considered a universal feature of the tense for many languages of the world.

Together the development of the field of grammar and the new research results supplemented by the study of time, the relationship between time and expression is increasingly viewed more objectively.

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Numerous research results on languages have also new perspectives, new empirical data for research on tense in linguistics and universal language is becoming more flexible, comprehensive, and deep.

In Japanese, the expression of time is placed in the dichotomous potential: Past/Non-past (including Present; Future and Super time). In Japanese, "Tense is the grammatical category of the predicate placing the event that the sentence represents on the time axis" (Nitta, 2007, p.117). According to Nitta, in the predicate composition, there are not only verbs but also adjectives and predicate structures containing nouns. The tenses in Japanese have a wider range of activities and expressions than the tenses in Indo-European languages. The tenses in Japanese are divided into absolute tenses and relative tenses.

In Vietnamese, there are two opposite trends related to tense. The trend of denial tense in Vietnamese with prominent researchers such as Hoang Tue (1988), Cao Xuan Hao (1988), Diep Quang Ban (2005) and the trend in Vietnamese such as Nguyen Minh Thuyet (1995), Dinh Van Duc (2001) etc.

In addition to the tendency to deny or confirm the existence of the tense above. Tran Thi Chung Toan (2016, p.35) has shown that "Tense in Vietnamese is a category with vocabulary – grammar. In which, the lexical elements with the grammatical elements that constitute certain grammatical structures are reproduced in the words "on the principle

of implicit and saving" in the way of thinking time according to the thinking of the Vietnamese".

While the tenses in Japanese are clearly a grammatical category with the morphological change of the ending suffixes, time expressions in Vietnamese operate according to the *"implicit" and "thrifty" mechanism* at the lexical-grammatical level. These are important theoretical bases for the analysis of the use of tenses in the Japanese - Vietnamese corpus, which will be presented in the next sections.

1. Japanese tenses from the perspective of morphology and semantics

In Japanese, morphological signs are grammatically specific, that is, the transformation of verbs, adjectives and nouns plays a very important role in expressing the elements of time. These grammatically formalized signs are brought into grammatical categories, including the temporal category or the temporal form of the word.

In addition to adverbs of time like "今日 today", "明日 tomorrow", etc., in Japanese there is also a type of adverb of frequency and degree such as "いつも often", "時々 sometimes", "もう already", "まだ not yet", etc.

The tense expression appears in the predicate, including the verb predicate, the adjective predicate and the grammatical structure containing the noun as shown in the following table:

Table 1: Tense expression of the tenses in Japanese from a morphological perspective

Tense	Expression form		
	Verbs	Adjective-i	Adjective-na and noun
Non-past	ru	i	da/de aru/desu
Past	ta	katta	datta/de atta/deshita

About the tenses in Japanese, the first and basic classification is to consider the absolute tense and relative tense.

2. Absolute tense

The absolute tense refers to the moment of utterance as the reference coordinate. In terms of morphology, to express the tense, Japanese verbs change their endings in two forms: "ル ru" or "タ ta". Using the present moment as a landmark to describe a movement, action, or situation in the present or future time frame, Japanese uses the structure: {[body] + the suffix "ル ru"} , which is called the absolute non-past.

1. 衣・食・住というが、この章は食をのぞいた衣と住を主に[扱]う。
Trang phục, ẩm thực, nơi cư trú là các chủ đề thường đi liền với nhau nhưng ở chương này đề cập chính đến chủ đề trang phục và nơi ở của người Nhật. (Clothing, food, and place of residence are topics that often go hand in hand, but in this chapter, the main theme of Japanese clothing and accommodation is covered.) [4]

In the case of verbs expressing motion, actions, or events that happened in the past, the ending of the word "ru" changes to "ta", the internal structure of the verb is: {[body] + the suffix "タ ta"} , and it is called the absolute past.

2. 狂言も能も観阿弥・世阿弥父子によって様式が[確立され]たが、とくに世阿弥は多くの理論書と脚本を[残し]た。
Cả Nō và Kyōgen đều do hai bố con nhà Kannami và Zeami gây dựng nên, đặc biệt là Zeami đã để lại rất nhiều trước tác lý luận cũng như kịch bản về Nō. (Both Noh and Kyōgen were created by the father and son of Kannami and Zeami, especially Zeami who left a lot of theoretical and scriptural works about No.) [4]

In addition, the absolute tense in the predicate is the adjective-i with the structure: {[body] + the suffix "イ i"} expressing the adjective in the non-past absolute tense, states, abilities, and properties, etc.

3. 盆栽は古くさい老人趣味と見られることが[多]い。
Nhiều người cho rằng bonsai là thú vui của mấy người già cổ hủ. (Many people think that bonsai is a hobby of old-fashioned people.) [3]

The absolute tense in the predicate is the adjective-i when expressing the past must change the ending "イ i" to "タ ta", specifically: {[body] + the suffix "カッタ katta"} , and is called the absolute past in the adjective-i.

4. また、かつては神棚と仏壇をもに備えた家が[少なくなっ]た。

Trước đây, có không ít gia đình người Nhật có cả giá thờ Thần và bàn thờ Phật ngay trong một nhà. (*In the past, there were many Japanese families that had both a God altar and a Buddha altar in the house.*) [3]

The action of the adjective-na is very close to that of a noun with a structure: {[adjective-na/ noun] + the preposition *ダ* da/ *デア*ル de aru/ *デス* desu}, expressing the past absolute tense in the adjective-na/ noun, describing the nature, ability, state, and specificity of the species...

5. 盆栽や日本庭園も同じく、できるかぎり切りつめた材料が[身上]である。(*Bonsai (nghệ thuật cây cảnh) hay nghệ thuật làm vườn của Nhật Bản đều giống nhau. Việc cắt giảm tối đa các phụ liệu là điều tối quan trọng. (Bonsai or the Japanese art of gardening is the same. Minimizing the ingredients is paramount.)*) [3]

The absolute tense in the predicate is the adjective-na/ noun, when expressing the past must change: {[adjective-na/noun] + preposition *デア*ッ de at/ *デシ* de shi/ *ダ*ッ dat + suffix "タ ta"} and is called the absolute past tense in the adjective-na/ noun.

6. 案内してきた専門の鉄砲打ちも、ちょっとまごついて、どこかへ行ってしまったくらいの[山奥でし]た。(*Núi sâu đến nỗi người thợ săn chỉ đường cho họ cũng lạc mất dấu. Họ không biết mình đang loanh quanh ở đâu. (The mountain was so deep that even the hunter who showed them the way lost track. They don't know where they're going.)*) [1]

Besides, there is a peculiarity of the

absolute tense in Japanese which is super tense. Super tense used to express truths, rules, or characteristics that are always common. It has the structure {[body] + the suffix "ル ru"}.

7. 海外で茶道の普及にもっとも力を入れているのは、裏千家である。(*Người đã bỏ công sức để làm cho trà đạo được phổ biến ra bên ngoài là Omote Sennoke. (The person who worked hard to make the tea ceremony popular is Omote Sennoke.)*) [3]

3. Relative tense

Relative tense is the tense that does not take the time of the utterance as the reference coordinate but takes the time of occurrence of a certain event or simply the speaker's mood as the reference coordinate. The relative tense plays very small role compared to the absolute tense and is clearly shown in the sub-clauses of complex sentences.

The relative tense in the form of "ta" is subjective, expressing expectations; assumptions; urgent request; judgment etc. of the speaker at the present time.

8. あ、やっぱり、ここに[あつ]た。(*A, quả nhiên nó ở đây. (Ah, of course it's here.)*)

In Japanese, verbs occurring at the time of utterance are conjugated in the past form, the ending "タ ta" expressing the speaker's expectation from before the thing is found, expressing the speaker's subjective psychology.

Besides, the mixed use of "ル ru" form in the past flow will bring rhetorical

effects to help readers feel past events and make circumstances appear in front of their eyes, creating a sense of freshness, liveliness.

9. その畜生に落されるとは、何かの因縁に違いございません。Việc hấn ta bị con ngựa đó hất xuống như này ắt hẳn phải có nhân quả chi đây. (*The fact that he was knocked down by that horse must have had a cause and effect.*) [1]

This is a narrative from Akutagawa Ryunosuke's "Four Sides of Dust". As can be seen, the relative tense in Japanese is a different usage compared to many languages. This also creates a unique feature in Japanese language and linguistic thinking.

4. Time expressions in Vietnamese

Contrary to Japanese, in Vietnamese, time expressions are not defined by suffixes. It is a lexical – grammatical category, operating in the "implicit" and "thrifty" mechanism. The "implicit" mechanism is, first in the general and universal thinking of language, usually "retelling" in novels, short stories (except science fiction stories, etc.), belonging to the past time frame.

In addition to some explicit adverbs of time and words expressing time such as "đã Ved"-"đang is +Ving"-"sẽ will", some words when appearing in context, in logical relation to other words, can express the meaning of completion.

10. Tôi tham gia ba lần mà chỉ thắng có một lần mà thôi. 3回も参加したんですが、一回しか勝ちませんでした。(I

participated three times and only won once.)

This sentence shows the correlation between "participate" and "win". Although the sentence does not have an adverb of time or word "đã Ved", "sẽ will", Vietnamese people still understand that this is an incident that happened in the past. The absence of word "sẽ will" before the verb "win" in the actual utterance allows the interlocutor to recover only the word "đã Ved" in the sentence. The word "đã Ved" does not appear here due to implicit convention and the effect of the thrift in the language.

Besides, the implicit mechanism also shows that the presence of adverbs of time in each small utterance is unnecessary. It only appears when it is necessary to reshape time relationships in a large time frame of events, or to restore the role of time vocabulary or adverbs of time.

In this study, the writer compared and analyzed Vietnamese corpus translated into Japanese to illustrate this mechanism.

4.1. Utterances without adverbs of time and adverbs in Vietnamese translated into Japanese

The research analysed the source survey material and obtained 428 no expression of time in Vietnamese, accounting for 83%.

11. Cái cửa hàng hai chị em trông coi - là một cửa hàng tạp hóa nhỏ xíu, mẹ Liên dọn ngay từ khi cả nhà bỏ Hà Nội về quê ở, vì thầy Liên mất việc. 姉と弟の二人が見ている店はささやかな雑貨店で、リエ

ンの父親が職を失ったために一家でハノイを離れ、田舎に戻ってきて母親がすぐに構えた店であった。(The shop the two sisters take care of - is a small grocery store, which Lien's mother moved right after the family left Hanoi to live in, because Lien's father lost his job.) [5]

This is the narration from the work "Two children" by Thach Lam. In the sentence, there is no need to add adverbial elements such as "đã Ved", the Vietnamese still implicitly understand that the said incident has happened and the Japanese translator has accepted this implicit convention, but when translating, the translator still ensures the morphological structure of the past tense in Japanese.

12. Tôi nhận thấy, cũng như tôi, những người khác ngồi chung quanh đang tò mò nhìn vào người đàn. 私には、周囲に座っているほかの人たちも、私と同じように好奇の眼差しでその婦人を眺めていることが見て取れた。(I noticed, like me, that the other people sitting around were looking at the woman curiously.) [2]

This is the narration from the work "French lady" by Thach Lam. In this sentence, when translated into Japanese, is conjugated into strict tense and form. The verb "見て取れた" is conjugated in the "ta" form, in the past tense, and the verb "座っている", "眺めている" in the form "te i/ru" shows the continuous, expressing a relative tense. In the Vietnamese sentence, there is no adverb of time or an adverb that adds past time meaning to the

sentence such as "have noticed" or "is sitting", "is looking" but Vietnamese people still understand it is a sentence about actions in progress at a certain time in the past.

4.2. Utterances containing words of time translated into Japanese

Although words of time are not a grammatically specific element to express the tense, they have an additional role for the conversation participants to identify the temporal perspective in some utterances. The writer analyzed ways to translate from Vietnamese to Japanese with adverbs often mentioned in grammar works such as "đã Ved", "đang is +Ving", "sẽ will".

13. Hơn ba năm đã qua. Tôi đã không giữ lời hứa. 三年余りが過ぎた。私は約束を守らなかった。(More than three years have passed. I didn't keep my promise.) [4]

This is the narration from Thach Lam's work "Sunshine in the Garden". In the utterance, the role of past time in language expressed by the adverb "đã Ved" is explicit. This expression is also in the implicit mechanism of automatically restoring adverbs, emphasizing actions that happened in the past.

14. Chị Sơn và mẹ Sơn đã trở dậy, đã đang ngồi quạt lò để pha nước chè uống. Sơn nhìn thấy mọi người đã mặc áo rét cả rồi. ソンの姉と母は既に起き、茶を入れるために七輪を煽っていたが、二人とも 冬服を着ているのをソンは知った。(Son and Son's mother got up and were sitting and fanning the stove to make

tea. Son saw that everyone was already wearing winter coats.) [5]

This is the narration from the work "Two children" by Thach Lam. In the utterance, the verb "sitting and fanning" has the adverb "đang were Ving" equivalent to the form "te ita" indicating the past continuous.

15. Sang năm em cũng lên tỉnh học với các cô đó. Rồi anh xem, em sẽ đẹp thế nào. ——来年、私もハノイに出てあの人たちと一緒に勉強するわ。見ていて、私がどう綺麗になるか。 (*Next year, I also go to the province to study with those girls. Then you see, how beautiful I will be.*) [4]

This is the narration from Thach Lam's work "Sunshine in the Garden". In the utterance, there is an adverb of time "next year" that clearly defines that time in which the thing in question is in the future. The adverb "will" both expresses the wishes and judgments of the speaker and adds the meaning of future time. When translated into Japanese, the verb is conjugated in the form "ル ru".

In the Vietnamese sentence, although there are no elements (T) or (P), the translation into Japanese still guarantees the rule of time division, which clearly reflects the linguistic thinking of Japanese people to put the situation, action in the flow of time in Vietnamese, the use of the rules "implicit" or "saving", in accordance with the original thinking of the Vietnamese is not using the elements of the term specialization refers to time as a required grammar.

Conclusion

This study aims to compare the time expressions in Vietnamese and Japanese languages from the grammatical standpoint. The study results show that tenses in Japanese are a grammatical category with the morphological change of the ending suffixes, while time expressions in Vietnamese operate according to the "implicit" and "thrifty" mechanism at the lexical-grammatical level. In particular, lexical elements in Vietnamese play the role of defining the time frame and often appear in utterances more often than some adverbs such as "đã Ved", "sẽ will", "đang is+Ving". Although it is difficult to give a one-on-one equivalent in the expression of time in these two languages, through research and analysis, Vietnamese expresses the time corresponding to the grammar of the tense in Japanese thanks to the "implicit" and "thrifty" mechanism in the language. Understanding the principles of tenses in Japanese and the mechanism of time expression in Vietnamese contributes to interesting linguistic research results.

Within the framework of this article, the study could not provide all the examples and results drawn from the comparative analysis of time expressions in Vietnamese and Japanese. In the following studies, the writer will continue to introduce the features of contemporary expressions in Japanese, survey the usage of time and the sense of time in Japanese by students who study Japanese, and provide some recommendations for the teaching of Japanese to Vietnamese students.

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