Complex Events in the Serial Verb Constructions in Vietnamese: A Cognitive Perspective

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Abstract

This study looks at the so-called serial verb construction, which Vietnamese speakers utilize to indicate complex events in a clause with two or more verbs placed side by side without a linker (henceforth SVC). The study's findings show how different events can be expressed by different verbs in the same construction. This study also demonstrates that verbs must be serialized in a specific collocation even though they indicate several occurrences in the same construction. More crucially, by highlighting verbs' semantic and syntactic characteristics in SVC, this work explains how verbs can be combined. As a result, this research is anticipated to provide linguistic context for examining the SCV typologies in Vietnamese.

Keywords: complex events, serial verbs construction, cognitive linguistics, argument structure

1. Introduction

Foley (2008) posits that a great number of types of complex events are expressed by SVCs, which differ from language to language. Vietnamese is one of many languages in Southeast Asia (e.g., Thai and Cambodian) which has serial verb constructions. The term '***serial verb construction***' was first used as the term '**co-verb**' by teachers of the Chinese language to describe a verb that:

1. occurs as a secondary verb preceding the main verb in a sentence,

2. is followed by a noun phrase with which it forms a constituent,

3. can be translated as a preposition in English.

(Clark Marybeth 1975: 76)

Chuwicha (1993) explains that SVC is defined as a construction in which two verb phrases are serialized without overt discourse markers. The verbs in construction may simultaneously express distinct events including *action, motion, process, change, state*, and so on, and share at least one argument. Talmy's (2000) term of the **event** must be understood in the context of certain general cognitive processes that are termed conceptual partitioning and ascription of entity hold. According to Talmy, the human mind in perception or conception can extend a boundary around a portion of what would otherwise be a continuum (space, time, and other domains) and ascribe the property of being a single entity to this content. Talmy (2000: 215) posits that one category of such an entity is perceived or conceptualized as an event. He further clarifies the idea of **macro-event**, organized as a gestalt, a relation between the main event and the co-event. The co-event is characterized as a support event for the main event, namely manner, purpose, cause, etc. The term macro-event is thus analogical to his previous expression of **complex events** in compound sentences (Talmy 1987).

Most Vietnamese SVCs which are adapted to exemplify in this paper are simple sentences (construction) with at least two verbs expressing complex events. These complex events may comprise different sub-events that depend on the number of verbs in those constructions.

To analyze Vietnamese SVCs in denoting complex events, this paper must examine both linguistic properties including syntactic and semantic properties, and the culture-particular conceptualizations of Vietnamese speakers, especially cognitive linguistics adopted as the theoretical framework.

The structure of this paper is as follows: regarding the SVCs in Vietnamese, section 2 updates Clark's (1975) analysis of the coverbs and takes a look at a number of serial verb construction patterns from Naomitsu (1981), which delves into the syntactic characteristics of SVCs in Vietnamese. On the basis of cognitive linguistic background, section 3 delves into a few linguistic characteristics of Vietnamese SVCs. The summary of the paper is in section 4.

2. SVCs in Vietnamese Revised

The studies regarding Vietnamese SVCs have been developed in two approaches: coverbs by Clark (1975) and serial verbs by Naomitsu (1981). The former refers to sentences with more than two verbs, but it typically provides information regarding the semantic features of verbs in those sentences in isolation and does not explain the semantic features of the combination of those verbs in a unit. The latter is associated with the combination of one or more verbs in a sentence and mainly provides information about the roles and functions of the second verb in that sentence. Accordingly, this section aims to revise and explore Vietnamese coverbs and serial verbs in a so-called expression denoting a complex event. Below are several working definitions which help to interpret the following contents.

- Agentive is the instigator of the event described by the verb.

- Dative is the experiencer or recipient of the event described by the verb.

- Locative is the orientation in the space of the state or event described by the verb.

(Clark 1975:18)

2.1 Coverbs in Vietnamese

As said above, the term *serial verb construction* was first used as coverbs by Chinese teachers, which refers to words that occur in a prepositional function and have a corresponding main-verb function. According to Clark (1975), the study of Vietnamese coverbs involves (1) a determination of their syntactic properties and the way they function syntactically; and (2) the relationship between them and their corresponding verbs. She adds that a classification of verbs based on their occurrence with certain coverbs needs to be implicitly or explicitly decomposed to distinguish between inner or outer locative and between dative and benefactive.

2.1.1 Locative coverbs in Vietnamese

Clark (1975) examines the locative relation which is the orientation in space of the state or event described by the verbs. Fillmore (1968: 22) shows that there is a distinction between inner and outer locative verbs. The former restricts locative highly and is associated with directional expressions inside the verb phrase. The latter weakly restricts locative and is associated with nondirectional expressions outside the verb phrase. Following Fillmore, Platt (1971:30-3) discusses different locatives in terms of distances. He proposes three degrees of location for English, as follows:

- Inner locative: the agent is not usually located at the location indicated.

- Outer locative: the agent is usually located at the location indicated.

- Far outer locative: there needs to be no Agent and it is independent of another locative.

A locative verb in the following group can combine with another locative verb to make up complex events, which are the events of motion or location.

Vietnamese locative verbs	English equivalences
ở	*be in/at, reside in*
Qua/ sang	*Go across (to)/ pass over/by*
Lại	*Come (back)*
Về	*Return*
Ra	*Go out (to)*
Vào/vô	*Go in/ into*
Lên	*Go up (to)*
Xuống	*Go down (to)*
Đến/tới	*Arrive at*

Here are several cases in which a locative verb (LV for short) can serialize with another one to constitute a coverb of LV-LV. However, the first LV *ở* 'to stay' always requires locations such as *đó* 'there', *đây* 'here', *nhà* 'house', *trường*

'school', etc. This coverb denotes a complex event of location and state (e.g., *ở* 'to be'- *đến* 'to come', *ở* 'to be' – *lại* 'to return'. Example (1) is a case in point of the LV-LV coverb.

(1)	Tôi	sẽ	**ở**	đó	**đến**	cuối	năm.
			LV		LV		

	I	*will*	*stay*	*there*	*arrive*	*end*	*year*

'I will be there until the end of the year.'

The second type of coverb is the combination of a couple of locative verbs (e.g., *chạy* 'to run', *bơi* 'to swim', *bò* 'to crawl') with other locative verbs (e.g., *lên* 'to ascend', *xuống* 'to descend', *vào* 'to enter', *ra* 'to exit') to set up VL-LV coverbs which express complex events of motion and direction such as *chạy ...vào, bò...xuống* and *bơi ...lên*. The final case is that a locative verb can combine with certain verbs such as *tìm* 'to find', *gặp* 'to meet', *lấy* 'to take', etc., to build up LV-V coverbs denoting complex events of motion and purpose (e.g., *đến...tìm*, *vào...gặp* and *ra...lấy*) as in (2).

(2)	Hắn	đến	gặp	tôi.
	he	*come*	*meet*	*I*

'He came to meet me.'

2.1.2 Dative Coverbs in Vietnamese

According to Clark (1975:18), the dative verbs identify the experiencer or beneficiary of events. When analyzing the syntactic features in terms of the argument structures of the verbs, White (2003) posits that dative verbs are those taking a theme and a target argument (to-datives) or a theme and benefactive argument (for datives) including *cho* 'to give', *bán* 'to sell', and *mua* 'to buy'. In dative coverbs, the grammatical subject has a set of verbs that have an optimal objective and feature in their lexical entries while a set of stative verbs takes an optional objective. Clark classifies two main types of dative coverbs: Agentive- Dative – Goal verbs (A-D-G) and Agentive – Dative – Source verbs (A-D-S).

2.1.2.1 A-D-G verbs

These are agentive verbs that, in addition to their objective, can also take a goal dative (such as the animate goal or recipient of the action of verbs). As a result, these verbs are frequently referred to as ditransitive verbs. These verbs contain a host of typical semantic features such as agentive, locative, direction, dative, and goal. Among the A-D-G verbs are the following:

Agentive-Dative-Goal verbs in Vietnamese	English Equivalences
Cho	*To give*
Gửi/gởi	*To send*
Đem	*To carry/to take*
Mang	*To carry*
Khiêng	*(Of two or more persons) to carry a heavy thing*
Phát	*To distribute*
Tin	*To inform/ to send news*
Viết	*To write*
Đưa	*To hand/to take*
Tặng	*To present/ to offer as a gift*
Trao/giao	*To deliver/ to entrust*
Trả/giả	*To pay/ to give back*
Bán	*To sell*
Dạy	*To teach*
Kể	*To relate/ to narrate/ to cite*
Bảo	*To say/to tell*
Hỏi	*To ask*
Trình/ báo cáo	*To report*
Truyền (-đạt)	*To convey/ to transmit*
Chỉ	*To point out/ to indicate*

The first case is that most dative verbs can serialize with another dative verb *cho* 'to give' as in (3) to constitute several coverbs such as *bán…. cho* 'to sell…to give', *gửi...cho* 'to send…to give', *kể ... cho* 'to narrate…to give', etc., These coverbs denote a complex event that includes the experience of the agent and the destination of the recipient.

(3) Ông ấy   viết   thư   cho   cô ấy.

he   *write*   *letter*   *give*   *she*

'*He wrote a letter to her*.'

The second case is concerned with the serialization of a dative verb with a directed verb (e.g., *đến* 'to come', *lại* 'to return', *đi* 'to go', *qua* 'to cross' and *ra* 'to exit' to make up coverbs such as *đem…. đến*, *mang…lại*, *khiêng …đi*, and *phát …ra*. This coverb expresses a complex event of the agent's experience and direction as in (4).

(4) Lan   gửi   quà   qua   tôi.

Lan   *send*   *gift*   *across*   *I*

'*Lan sent a gift over to me*."

2.1.2.2 A-L-G verbs

Vietnamese A-L-G verbs have several semantic features including agentive, goal, locative, and direction, which are both transitive and intransitive and can combine with the group of directed verbs.   Following are some A-L-G verbs in Vietnamese.

Agentive-Locative-Goal verbs in Locative	English Equivalences
Để	*To place/ to put/ to leave*
Đặt	*To place/ to put*
Thọc	*To thrush/ to poke*
Ấn	*To thrush/ to poke*
Bỏ	*To cast/ to put*
Vứt	*Throw away/to discard*
Liệng	*To throw/ to cast/ to hurl*
Góp	*To distribute*
Dời	*To transfer/ to move*
Dọn	*To move/ to arrange*
Đậu	*To stop / to part (vehicle)*
Lái	*To drive (vehicle)*
Tìm	*To seek*
Áp	*To press against*
Treo	*To hang*

When they are transitive verbs and combine with directed verbs, they constitute fixed expressions and are considered single events because the directed verbs do not keep the full lexical meaning such as *thọc …xuống* 'to thrust…to descend', *vứt …đi* 'to discard… to go' and *lái …về* 'to drive …to return'.   However, when they are intransitive and can combine with directed verbs, they make up complex events as in (5).

(5) Nàng   áp   mặt   vào   của sổ.

she   *press*   *face*   *enter*   *window*

'*She pressed her face to the window.*'

2.1.2.3 A-D-S verbs

Here is a group of A-D-S verbs.

Agentive-Dative – Source verbs	English equivalences
Mua	*Buy*
Nhận	*Receive*
Thu	*Collect*
Tranh	*Take away*
Lấy	*Take from*
Ăn cắp	*Steal*
Cướp	*Rob*
Mượn	*Borrow*
Vay	*Borrow*

The A-D-S verbs are discussed in Clark (1975) as verbs of '*taking*', which are normally marked with location when they combine with locative verbs (e.g., *mua…ở* 'to buy…to stay' and *nhận…ở* 'to receive… to stay', *lấy..ở* 'to take …to stay') to give a rise to complex events of action and location as in (6).

(6) Nó nhận   sach ở   trường.

   it receive   book stay   school

   'He received books at school.'

Another case is that when they combine with source verbs (e.g., *mua… từ* 'buy… from' and *nhận…từ* 'receive… from', *lấy …từ* 'to take…from', *cướp …từ* 'to rob…from'). This combination denotes a complex event of action and origination as in (7), which is also a genitive construction by using the word *của* 'property or possession'.

 (7) Tôi   mua   cái   xe máy   từ   ông   Lâm

   I   buy   a   motorbike   from   Mr   Lam

   'I bought this motorbike from Mr Lam.'

Finally, these verbs can serialize with a dative verb *cho* 'to give' to express complex events such as *mua … cho*, *nhận …cho*, *thu…cho*, *lấy…cho*, etc.

2.2 Serial verb Constructions in Vietnamese

Naomitsu (1981) considers a sentence as a string of constituents including noun phrases (NP for short) and verbs (V). According to him, the string NP0 V1 (NP1) V2 (NP2) can be interpreted in different ways in terms of syntactic properties: (1) **coordination**; and (2) **embedding**.

2.2.1 Coordination

The serial verb construction, which is produced from a deep structure with two conjoined sentences, will be discussed in this section. It is used to convey (i) two subsequent actions or occurrences carried out by the same actor or subject over time and (ii) two concurrent events or states pertaining to the same subject. In other words, it is a coordination structure syntactically, and depending on how the two underlying sentences are semantically related, it is understood as (i) or (ii).

Take a look at the following sentences.

(8)   a. Anh ấy mở   thư   xem

     he   open   letter   watch

   'He opened the letter and read it.'

   b. Lá   lìa   cành   rơi xuống

     leave   leave   branch   fall descend

   'Leaves came off the branches and fell.'

   c. Chúng tôi   múa   hát.

     we   dance   sing

'We danced and sang.'

Examples (8a) and (8b) are the first interpretation which contains two events done by the same subjects, and the two events are considered as a single complex event. However, they may also be separated into two independent events by inserting a coordinator *và* 'and' between two events, then they express different properties of each event. Therefore, example (8a) can be separated into '*Anh ấy mở thư và xem',* and example (8b) into '*Lá lìa cành và rơi xuống*'. In example (8a), the subject *anh ấy* 'he' conducts two different events in the order of time.

Example (8c) is the interpretation of (ii), which expresses the two concurrent events including *múa* 'to dance' and *hát* 'to sing'. These complex events take place simultaneously at the same time and with the same subject. Apart from (8a) and (8b), the two events in (8c) may not be separated into two single events by inserting the coordinating conjunction *và* 'and'.

2.2.2 Embedding

This section discusses serial verb constructions, which consist of two sentences with the second sentence appearing to be embedded in the first one. These constructions use the syntactical elements of a relative clause, adverbial adjuncts, NP complementation, and VP complementation.

2.2.2.1 Noun Phrase Complementation

When the embedding of sentences is a noun phrase, it can be complemented for both the subject (S NP complementation) and the object (O NP complementation).

a. Subject NP complementation

Consider the following example:

(9)	*Trẻ em*	*đọc*	*sách*	*quan trọng*	*lắm*
	children	read	book	important	very

'*It is very important for children to read books.*'

Syntactically, example (9) can be divided into two constituents including *Trẻ em đọc sách* and *quan trọng lắm*. The former is a sentence being able to stand alone as an independent one. The later *quan trọng lắm* can be replaced by a nominal like *việc ấy* (or *điều ấy*) *quan trọng lắm* or a subject complement like *thì quan trọng lắm.* Therefore, the first constitution is a subject and functions as an NP for the second one. As result, example (9) can be understood in two ways.

(9a)	Việc (or điều)	quan trọng	lắm	là	trẻ em	đọc	sách
	what	*important*	*very*	*be*	*children*	*read*	*book*

'*What is very important is that children read books?*'

Or

(9b)	Trẻ em	đọc	sách	thì	quan trọng	lắm
	children	*read*	*book*	*be*	*important*	*very*

'*Children read books, which is very important.*'

From the analysis of the mentioned example, a conclusion of S NP complementation can be understood as an independent clause that functions as the subject of a sentence. The words *việc ấy* (or *mà*) or *điều ấy* (or mà) 'what', *thì* (or *là*) 'to be' in this case are termed complementizers are optionally presented in an appropriate position in sentences.

a. Object NP complementation

This section is concerned with the embedding of sentences in which verbs take O NP complementation and will be subdivided into two types: (i) verbs optionally take complementizers, and (ii) verbs do not need complementizers. In the case that verbs optionally take complementizers, the verbs need consideration including *biết* 'to know', *nghĩ* 'to think', *hỏi* 'to ask', *tin* 'to believe' *nói* 'to say', *hối tiếc* 'to regret', etc. Examine (10) is a case in point.

(10)	Tôi	biết	ông ấy	về	rồi
	I	*know*	*he*	*return*	*already*

'*I know he has returned already.*'

This sentence can be separated into sentences by the complementizers, namely *rằng* or *mà* 'that'. The first sentence contains the main verb *biết* which needs to take a noun phrase as complementation.

Thus, the second sentence has the role of a noun phrase that functions as an object, and it is called O NP complementation. Example (11) can be rewritten as follows:

(11) Tôi   biết   rằng   ông ấy   về   rồi.

        I   *know*   *that*   *he*   *return*   *already*

        '*I know that he has returned already.*'

In the verb phrase complementation, S is always dominated by VP which falls into intransitive and transitive VP complementation. The intransitive VP complementation in Vietnamese can contain a verb phrase or an active clause after the passive form *bị and được*. For the first case, when a verb phrase comes after *bị,* it often expresses an undesirable coevent. The first event is regularly related to carelessness, lack of attention, or unluckiness while the second one is engendered by the second verb such as *bị ngã* 'to fall', *bị đánh* 'to be hit', *bị phạt* 'to be punished', etc. In contrast, when the verb phrase stands after *được*, it often denotes a desirable coevent. The first event often expresses compliments, care, or luck while the second event is triggered by the second verb such as *được bế* "to be embraced', *được quan tâm* 'to be cared', *được nuôi dưỡng* 'to be brought up', etc. Examine the following example.

(12)   Thằng bé   bị   té.
            baby   *passive*   *fall*
            '*The baby fell.*'

The second case is when an active clause stands after the passive form *bị* and *được*. Like the first case, the first event is expressed by the passive form *bị* and *được* while the second event is denoted by the active clause as in (13).

(13)   Thằng bé   bị   chó   cắn
            baby   *passive*   *dog*   *bite*
            '*The baby was bitten by a dog.*'

Returning the transitive VP complementation in Vietnamese which always requires transitive verbs. This group of verbs is also termed caused verbs which fall into two subcategories: indirect cause verbs and direct cause verbs. The first group includes *cho phép* 'to allow', *mời* 'to invite', *bảo* 'to tell', *khuyên* 'to advise', *van xin* 'to beg', *nài nỉ* 'to insist', etc. In this SVC, the first event is expressed by the main verbs in the SVC, which are often the verbs of indirect cause. That means there is no direct contact between speakers and hearers. The second event '*vào phòng'* is denoted in the active clause '*họ vào phòng'* which is considered the result of the first event '*mời*' as in (14).

(14)   Tôi   mời   họ   vào   phòng.
            I   *invite*   *them*   *enter*   *room*
            '*I invited them to enter the room*'

The group of direct cause verbs which has direct contact between speaker and hearer includes *đánh* 'to beat', *giết* 'to kill'*, xô* 'to push', *kéo* 'to draw', *lôi* 'to pull'*, nhấn* 'to press'*, nhấc* 'to pick', etc. The second event is the simultaneous and direct result of the first event. Take (15) as an illustrative example, when the agent *nó* takes an action *xô* which gives rise to direct contact with *bạn nó* and causes *bạn nó* to fall down.

(15)   Nó   xô   bạn   nó   ngã.
            he   *push*   *friend*   *him*   *fall*
            '*He pushed his friend to fall*'

2.2.2.2 Relative Clause Construction

Vietnamese speakers use the serial verb construction with the relative clause quite frequently. In this construction, the head noun it modifies is frequently followed by the relative clause.

Consider the following example:

(16) Tôi   đánh   con   chó   chết
        I   *hit*   *animal*   *dog*   *die*
        '*I hit the dog and it died.*'

This construction is made up of the complex event, including the agent's hitting action as well as the dog's eventual demise. The second event modifies the noun dog and is included in the relative clause. The construction frequently

includes two understandings in terms of syntax: (1) I hit the dog, and after it passed away, and (2) I hit the dead dog. The coordinator *và*, which means 'and' is sometimes used to divide this construction into two sentences, allowing it to be interpreted as I *đánh con chó và nó chết* 'I hit the dog and it died'. In this case, the second event is seen as the outcome of the first.

3. Cognitive Linguistic Properties of SVCs in Vietnamese

3.1 Syntactical Properties of Vietnamese SVCs

3.1.1 Non-grammaticalized SVCs and Grammaticalized SVCs

When two verbs are present in an SVC, yet each has its full lexical meaning. To put it another way, the second verb's meaning stands alone from the first. The two activities in this construction, while involving the same subject, do not take place at the same time or place. The first action in a sequence always happens before the second action. The non-grammaticalized SVCs represent a single complex event of several unique subevents, particularly. In example 17, though the verbs *vào*, meaning 'to enter,' and *tìm*, meaning 'to find' are combined to make a single complex event, they retain their original meanings.

(17)   Nó vào   nhà   tìm   mẹ   nó

      he   enter   house   find   mother   him

      'He entered the house to find his mother.'

Vietnamese grammaticalized SVCs, in contrast to non-grammaticalized SVCs, are composed of two verbs with a modified meaning or part of speech for the second verb. To put it another way, the second verb is properly grammaticalized. Consider example 18 below, which combines the verb *bò* 'to crawl' and *vào* 'to enter' to form a complex event, rendering the second verb's original meaning. In particular, the verb vào is considered a preposition that serves as the direction for the first verb and does not fully represent the action of entering.

(18)   Thằng bé   bò   vào   trong   nhà

      baby   crawl   enter   in   house

      'The baby crawled into the house.'

3.1.2 SVCS with Complement-Taking and Non–complement–taking Verbs

The potential for verb serialization in Vietnamese construction is discussed in this section. There are some verbs that must always be followed by other verbs in order to fully convey their meanings. These verbal formulations are known as SVCS with complement-taking verbs. The verbs such as *muốn* 'to want,' *thích* 'to like,' *hy vọng* 'to hope,' *mong đợi* 'to expect,' *khát khao* 'to desire' etc., are frequently used.

(19)   Cô ấy   muốn   về   nhà

      she   want   return   house

      'She wants to come back home.'

In contrast, the constructions that are optional for requiring verbs are called non-complement-taking verbs. This is to say when several verbs serialize other verbs in order not to complete their meanings, but they make up single complex events, which are considered the result, manner, and direction for the first event.

3.2 Semantic Properties of Vietnamese SVCs

Vietnamese has a verbal construction where the verb phrase is followed by an adverbial clause. This adverbial clause frequently serves as the manner, purpose, and result.

3.2.1 Manner SVCs

Drăgan (2011: 79) defines manner verbs are verbs whose meanings express the particular manner or means of motion of an entity that usually, though not always, undergoes displacement (e.g., *vẫy* 'to wave' *đi nước kiệu* 'to amble', *nảy* 'to bounce', *bò* 'to crawl'). There are many manner verbs in Vietnamese (see appendix.). Manner SVCs are rather common in Vietnamese, where a manner verb is normally serialized with another verb. The first verb expresses the manner of performing and the action is denoted by the second verb. A manner SVC consists of a primary verb and a non-primary verb. The primary action verbs are verbs that denote events carried out by a physical means and manner such as *đi bộ* 'to walk', *vỗ tay* 'to clap' or *bơi* 'to swim'. On the contrary, the non-primary verbs are vague as to the means or manner of carrying out the actions expressed by themselves such as *đi* 'to go', *luyện tập* 'to practice', or *nghĩ* 'to think'. The actions indicated by the two verbs were performed by the same agent and took

place at the same place and time but referred to different aspects of the same objective event.

The manner SVCs in Vietnamese express multiple event facets that are not separable. That is, they are overlaid to form a detailed description of a single complex event. The first action is considered the means or manner of performing the second action while at the same time, the second action is considered the goal of performing the first action. This type of construction is exemplified by the following examples.

(20)	Cô ta	vẫy	tay	chào	người thân
	she	*wave*	*hand*	*greet*	*relative*

'She waved her hands to greet her relative.'

3.2.2 Sequential SVCs

This type of SVC consists of two primary action verbs that are not vague as to the means and manner of carrying out the actions indicated by them. The two verbs in this construction express two physical actions performed by the same agent, which occur in a close sequence without a noticeable period in between. Additionally, the second action in this construction is typically interpreted as the purpose of carrying out the first action. The two actions are considered a single complex event because they are performed by the same agent, are interpreted as an action-purpose sequence of events, and occurred at more or less the same time and place.

3.2.3 Resultative SVCs

Two verbs in this construction express two subevents taking place in a close sequence without any noticeable time between them. The first event is considered a causing action while the second is conceptualized as either a process or resulting state of an entity affected by causing action. Therefore, these two subevents constitute a simple complex event in a serial verb construction that can be interpreted as a cause-result sequence of events occurring right after each other at the same place.

(21)	Anh ấy	ném	cái	ly	vỡ.
	he	*throw*	*a*	*glass*	*break*

'He threw a glass, and it broke.'

3.2.4 Posture SVCs

In the type of posture SVCs, a person performs an action denoted by the second verb being in a certain posture. The first verbs are normally locative verbs including *đứng* 'to stand', *ngồi* 'to sit', *nằm* 'to lie', *quỳ* 'to knee' and *tựa* 'to lean'. The two subevents are performed by the same agent and happen at the same time and place. More particularly, the posture SVCs express multiple event facets which provide a detailed description of one event.

(22)	Anh ấy	ngồi	đọc	sách.
	he	*sit*	*read*	*book*

'He sat and read a book.'

3.2.5 Directional SVCs

This is the most common construction in Vietnamese because this construction contains two verbs including one manner verb and one verb with direction termed directional verb by Nguyen Lai (2021) such as *ra* 'to exist', *vào* 'to enter', *lên* 'to ascend', *xuống* 'to descend', *tới* 'to come', and *lại* 'to return', etc. Ly Ngoc Toan (2018) listed all manner of verbs in Vietnamese and examined their semantic and syntactic properties (see appendix). The manner verbs denote a manner of action (e.g., chạy, nhảy, bơi, bò, and trườn) while the directional verbs express the direction of movement of the agent. Although each verb denotes different aspects of actions, when they are serialized in the same construction, they constitute a complex single event.

(23)	Thằng bé	đi chập chũng	vào	nhà.
	baby	*toddle*	*enter*	*house*

'The baby toddled into the house.'

4. Conclusion

The serialization of verbs to create complex events is the subject of this qualitative study. First, in order to better understand the semantic and syntactic characteristics of sentences with two or more verbs, this work updates the

Vietnamese coverbs studied by Clark (1975). In order to determine the compatibility of verbs, Clark focuses on the analysis of the two types of verbs, namely Dative and Locative verbs. The serial verb construction by Naomitsu (1981), which primarily focuses on the syntactical analysis of the formations with two or more verbs, is the subject of the second section of this study. The analysis of these papers led to the current study's thorough investigation of the linguistic characteristics of SVCs from a cognitive linguistics approach. This study's major goal is to investigate how well word combinations can describe complex events. Each event's semantic characteristics are fully examined.

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