

LOGICAL MEANING REALIZATIONS IN THE AGREEMENT TEXT ON COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA

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Abstract

This study aims at describing the lexicogrammatical realizations of logical meaning in the agreement text on common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) scheme for the Asean free trade area. The text under study was taken from <http://asean.org/asean-economic-community/asean-free-trade-area-afta-council/agreements-declarations/>. The logical meaning in this study refers to the grammatical and semantic unit formed when two or more clauses are linked together in certain systematic and meaningful ways under the theoretical framework of clause complex in systemic functional linguistics (SFL). The text was analyzed by identifying the boundaries of all clause complexes that made the text. The analysis emphasized on finding the types and the meanings of logical connection between clauses in the clause complexes. The findings show that the sentences in the agreement text under study use clause complexes (54%) more than clause simplexes (46%), showing the complexity of its sentence structure. This complexity is also supported by the fact that most of the clause simplexes use embedded clauses (63%) to give more meanings into the clause simplexes. In terms of interdependency relationship between clauses in clause complexes, the text uses significantly more hypotaxis (81%) than parataxis (19%).

Keywords: Asean free trade area, common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) scheme, logical meaning, clause complex, hypotaxis, parataxis

Introduction

Globalization marks the development of the world which makes borderless world. In globalization era, many commodities from different countries may be exchanged. One of the effects of globalization which cannot be avoided by any country is economic globalization. According to Pasaribu & Bahri (1998: 5), economic globalization in ASEAN region created trade liberalization in the ASEAN countries that encouraged them to establish an economic agreement called ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) which was firstly signed in 1992 in Singapore. The primary goal of this agreement was to increase the economic development in the member countries through eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers. The terms and conditions for lowering of intra-regional tariffs have been agreed by the members through the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for AFTA. In terms of text, CEPT Scheme is stated in legal text in the form of agreement text.

One of the typical linguistic features of legal text, including agreement text, is its sentence complexity to be able to cover various meanings about the things agreed

and make those meanings more explicit (Djatkika, 2012: 1). The complex structure of the sentences in the text will result in difficult understanding of the text, particularly for those who are not familiar with legal text. The agreement text of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme for AFTA is dominated by the structures of complex sentence with more clauses in it. Even, one of the complex sentences in the agreement text is made up of sixteen clauses. Of course, those clauses in the complex sentence are not written and sequenced by accident. There must certain meaning relationships made by those clauses.

The problems of understanding legal text with a certain complexity of sentence structure can be overcome by applying the lexicogrammatical analysis of ideational meaning, particularly the logical meaning, in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). In SFL, logical meaning refers to the meaning made when two or more clauses are linked together in systematic and meaningful ways (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 362; Martin, et al., 2010: 229; Eggins, 2004: 255). Under SFL terms, simple sentence in traditional grammar is referred by clause simplex, while compound and complex sentences are referred by clause complex. So “clause complex is the term used for the grammatical and semantic unit formed when two or more clauses are linked together in certain systematic and meaningful ways” (Eggins, 2004: 255). In this paper, clause simplex and clause complex will be used.

As stated by Eggins (2004: 258-259), the systems of clause complex relations can be diagrammed in Figure 1.

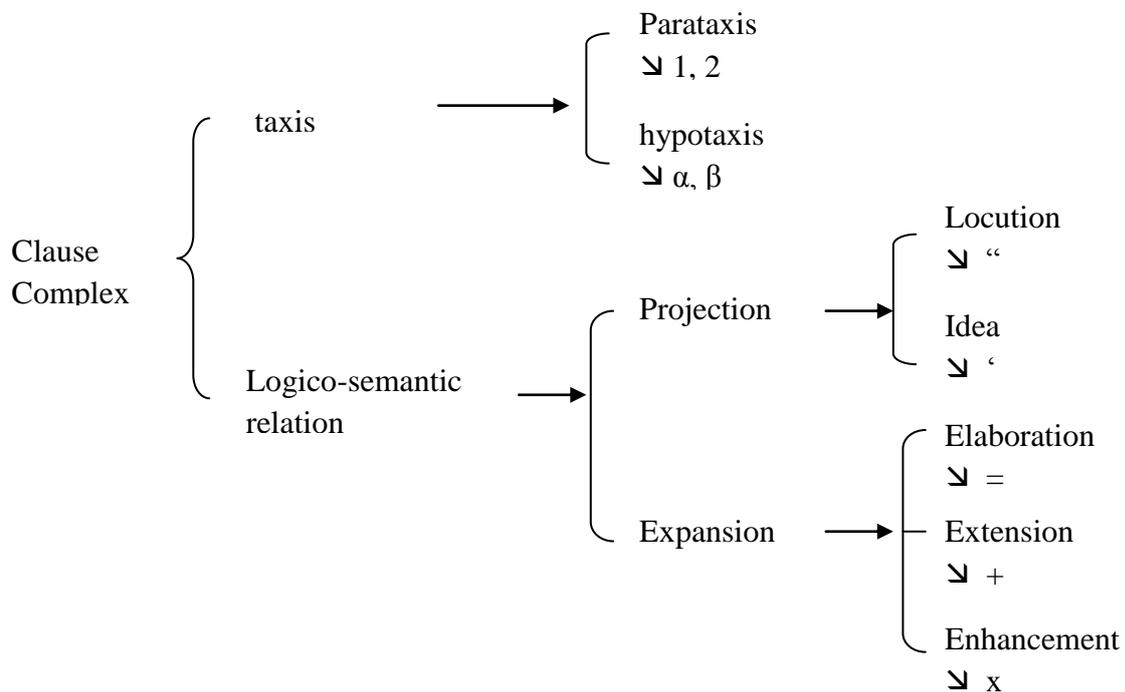


Figure 1. System of the Clause Complex

As Figure 1 shows, there are two systems involved in the formation of clause complexes: the taxis systems and the logico-semantic systems. The system of taxis describes the type of interdependency relationship between clauses linked into a clause complex. The two options in this system are parataxis (where clauses are related as equal, independent entities) and hypotaxis (where clauses relate to a main clause

through a dependency relationship). In parataxis clause, each clause is labeled with an ordinary numbers (1, 2, etc.), while in hypotaxis clause, the clauses are labeled with Greek letters (α , β , etc.). Letter α is used for the dominant clause, while letter β for the dependent clause.

The logico-semantic system describes the specific type of meaning relationship between linked clauses. There are two main options clauses may be related through projection (where one clause is quoted or responded by another clause), or through expansion (where one clause develops or extends on the meaning of another). Projection offers two choices: locution (where what is projected is speech) and aides (where what is projected is thoughts). The locution projected clause is labeled with “, while the idea projected clause is labeled with ‘. The system of expansion consists of three main options: elaboration (relations of restatement or equivalence), extension (relations of addition), and enhancement (relations of development). The three types of expansion clauses are labeled respectively with =, +, and x.

This study aims at describing the lexicogrammatical realizations of logical meaning of the clauses in the agreement text on common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) scheme for the Asean free trade area (AFTA). The findings of this study will be useful in understanding the meanings of the agreement text on CEPT for AFTA which is dominantly constructed in clause complexes.

Method

The text under study was taken from <http://asean.org/asean-economic-community/asean-free-trade-area-afta-council/agreements-declarations/>. The data were analyzed by applying the system of clause complex in SFL. In the data analysis, the text was segmented in terms of clause boundaries, to classify between clause simplexes and clause complexes. The clause simplexes were then analyzed by focusing on the ones with embedded clauses, which are usually longer clause simplexes. On the other hand, the clause complexes were classified and analyzed to describe the tactic systems and the logico-semantic relation systems in the clause complexes. The analysis was done by referring to the theoretical framework of system of clause complex as stated by Halliday & Mathiessen (2014) and Eggins (2004).

Findings and Discussion

The result of clause complex analysis for the text under study can be displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Clause Complex Analysis

No	Items	Total	%
1	Number of words in the text	2118	
2	Number of sentences in the text	61	
3	Proportion of words to sentence	35	
4	Number of clause simplexes	27	44%
	Clause simplex with embedded clause	17	63%
	Clause simplex without embedded clause	10	37%
5	Number of clause complexes	34	56%
	Clause complex with parataxis	6	18%
	Clause complex with hypotaxis	28	82%
	Projection of locution	2	

Clause Simplexes

Table 1 shows that from the 61 sentences in the agreement text, 27 clauses (44 %) are constructed in clause simplexes, while 34 clauses (54 %) are constructed in clause complexes. This proportion between clause simplex and clause complex in the text shows the fact that clause complexes dominate the sentences in the text, showing the complexity of the text in terms of the sentence construction. From 27 clause simplexes, 17 clauses (63 %) are clause simplexes with embedded clauses in them, while 10 clauses (37 %) are clause simplexes without embedded clause. These more clause simplexes with embedded clauses also support the fact of sentence complexity in the text.

Some clause simplexes without embedded clause can exemplified as follows:

Example 1

Clause No.	Clause	Appearance in the text
1	The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand, Member States of the Association of South, East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed as follows.	The first clause in the text
9	All Member States shall participate in the CEPT Scheme.	Article 1 (1)
22	Agricultural products shall be excluded from the CEPT Scheme.	Article 3
59	No reservation shall be made with respect to any of the provisions of this Agreement.	Article 10 (5)

Some clause simplexes with embedded clause can exemplified as follows:

Example 2

Clause No.	Clause	Appearance in the text
28	A programme of reduction [[to be decided by each Member State]] shall be announced at the start of the programme.	Article 4 (1)
30	Two or more Member States may enter into arrangements for tariff reduction to 0%-5% on specific products at an accelerated pace [[to be announced at the start of the programme]].	Article 4 (1)
33	Member States shall eliminate all quantitative restrictions in respect of products under the CEPT Scheme upon enjoyment of the concessions [[applicable to those products]].	Article 5
34	Member States shall eliminate other non-tariff barriers on a gradual basis within a period of five years after the enjoyment of concessions [[applicable to those products]].	Article 5
7	" <i>Exclusion List</i> " means a list [[containing products [[that are excluded from the extension of tariff preferences under the CEPT Scheme]]]].	Article 1 (6)

Clause 28 *A programme of reduction* *[[to be decided by each Member State]]* shall be announced at the start of the programme is a clause simplex (one sentence) in which the subject *a programme of reduction* is modified by an embedded clause that makes the embedded clause a constituent (qualifier) of the subject nominal group *A programme of reduction* *[[to be decided by each Member State]]*.

In Clause 7 "*Exclusion List*" means a list *[[containing products* *[[that are excluded from the extension of tariff preferences under the CEPT Scheme]]]*], we have a clause simplex with two embedded clauses in it. The first embedded clause *containing products* functions as qualifier of the complement nominal group *a list* *[[containing products]]*, while the second embedded clause *that are excluded from the extension of tariff preferences under the CEPT Scheme* is a qualifier of the nominal group *products* *[[that are excluded from the extension of tariff preferences under the CEPT Scheme]]*.

Clause Complexes

From the 34 clause complexes in the text, 6 clauses (18 %) are clause complexes related in paratactic relationship, while 28 clauses (82 %) are clause complexes linked in hypotactic relationship. Paratactic clauses are clauses related as equal by using a paratactic conjunction, such as *and*, *but*, *or*. Hypotactic clauses, on the other hand, are clauses which are not equal related by using hypotactic conjunction, such as *when*, *because*, *while*.

Some of clause complexes with paratactic relationship can exemplified as follows:

Example 3

Clause No.	Clause	Appearance in the text
20	(i) Member States with tariff rates at MFN rates of 0%-5% shall be deemed to have satisfied the obligations under this Agreement and (ii) and shall also enjoy the concessions.	Article 2 (7)
29	For products with existing tariff rates of 20% or below as at 1 January 1993, Member States shall decide upon a programme of tariff reductions, (ii) and announce at the start, the schedule of tariff reductions.	Article 4 (1)
42	Where emergency measures are taken pursuant to this Article, (ii) immediate notice of such action shall be given to the Council referred to in Article 7 of this Agreement, (iii) and such action may be the subject of consultation as provided for in Article 8 of this Agreement.	Article 5
56	(i) Any amendment to this Agreement shall be made by consensus (ii) and shall become effective upon acceptance by all Member States.	Article 10 (2)

In clause 20 (i) *Member States with tariff rates at MFN rates of 0%-5% shall be deemed to have satisfied the obligations under this Agreement* and (ii) *and shall also enjoy the concessions*, we have a clause complex consisting of two independent clauses related paratactically by using extending conjunction *and* (+). This paratactic clause can be analyzed as follows:

No of Clause	Logical Relation	Clause
(i)	1	<i>Member States with tariff rates at MFN rates of 0%-5% shall be deemed to have satisfied the obligations under this Agreement</i>
(ii)	+2	<i>and shall also enjoy the concessions.</i>

Some of clause complexes with hypotactic relationship can exemplified as follows:

Example 4

Clause No.	Clause	Appearance in the text
4	(i) " <i>Quantitative restrictions</i> " mean prohibitions or restrictions on trade with other Member States, (ii) whether made effective through quotas, licenses or other measures with equivalent effect, (iii) including administrative measures and requirements [[which restrict trade]].	Article 1 (3)
5	(i) " <i>Foreign exchange restrictions</i> " mean measures [[taken by Member States]] in the form of restrictions and other administrative procedures in foreign exchange (ii) which have the effect of restricting trade.	Article 1 (4)
17	(i) In respect of PTA items, the schedule of tariff reduction [[provided for in Article 4 of this Agreement]] shall be applied, (ii) taking into account the tariff rate after the application of the existing margin of preference (MOP) as at 31 December 1992.	Article 2 (5)
19	(i) Member States, (ii) whose tariffs for the agreed products are reduced from 20% and below to 0%-5%, (iii) even though granted on an MFN basis, (iv) shall still enjoy concessions.	Article 2 (7)

In clause 4 (i) "*Quantitative restrictions*" mean prohibitions or restrictions on trade with other Member States, (ii) whether made effective through quotas, licenses or other measures with equivalent effect, (iii) including administrative measures and requirements [[which restrict trade]], we have a hypotactic clause complex consisting of three clauses. The three clauses are related each other by using enhancement

hypotactic relationship (x). In terms of interdependency relationship, clause (i) is the head clause (α) for clause (ii), which is in turn the head clause (α) for clause (iii). This hypotactic clause complex can be analyzed as follows:

No of Clause	Logical Relation	Clause
(i)	α	"Quantitative restrictions" mean prohibitions or restrictions on trade with other Member States,
(ii)	$x\beta$ α	whether made effective through quotas, licenses or other measures with equivalent effect,
(iii)	$x\beta$	including administrative measures and requirements [[which restrict trade]].

The most complicated structure of the clause complexes in the text is Clause 1, as follows:

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand, Member States of the Association of South, East Asian Nations (ASEAN):
MINDFUL of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord signed in Bali, Indonesia on 24 February 1976 which provides that Member States shall cooperate in the field of trade in order to promote development and growth of new production and trade;
RECALLING that the ASEAN Heads of Government, at their Third Summit Meeting held in Manila on 13-15 December 1987, declared that Member States shall strengthen intra-ASEAN economic cooperation to maximise the realisation of the region's potential in trade and development;
NOTING that the Agreement on ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) signed in Manila on 24 February 1977 provides for the adoption of various instruments on trade liberalisation on a preferential basis;
ADHERING to the principles, concepts and ideals of the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation signed in Singapore on 28 January 1992;
CONVINCED that preferential trading arrangements among ASEAN Member States will act as a stimulus to the strengthening of national and ASEAN Economic resilience, and the development of the national economies of Member States by expanding investment and production opportunities, trade, and foreign exchange earnings;
DETERMINED to further cooperate in the economic growth of the region by accelerating the liberalisation of intra-ASEAN trade and investment with the objective of creating the ASEAN Free Trade Area using the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme;
DESIRING to effect improvements on the ASEAN PTA in consonance with ASEAN's international commitments;
have agreed as follows.

This clause complex consists of 21 clauses which are related by using hypotactic, paratactic, and projection relationships. This longer clause complex can be analyzed as follows:

Cls No	Logical Relation					Clause
(i)	α					<i>The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and the Kingdom of Thailand,</i>

					<i>Member States of the Association of South, East Asian Nations (ASEAN):</i>	
(ii)	<xβ >	1	α		<i>MINDFUL</i> of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord [[signed in Bali, Indonesia on 24 February 1976]]	
(iii)			=β	α	<i>which provides</i>	
(iv)				“β	α	<i>that Member States shall cooperate in the field of trade</i>
(v)					xβ	<i>in order to promote development and growth of new production and trade;</i>
(vi)		+2	α			<i>RECALLING</i>
(vii)			‘β	α		<i>that the ASEAN Heads of Government, at their Third Summit Meeting [[held in Manila on 13-15 December 1987]], declared</i>
(viii)				“β	α	<i>that Member States shall strengthen intra-ASEAN economic cooperation</i>
(ix)					xβ	<i>to maximise the realisation of the region's potential in trade and development;</i>
(x)		+3	α			<i>NOTING</i>
(xi)			‘β			<i>that the Agreement on ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) [[signed in Manila on 24 February 1977]] provides for-the adoption of various instruments on trade liberalisation on a preferential basis;</i>
(xii)		+4				<i>ADHERING</i> to the principles, concepts and ideals of the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation [[signed in Singapore on 28 January 1992]];
(xiii)		+5	α			<i>CONVINCED</i>
(xiv)			‘β	α		<i>that preferential trading arrangements among ASEAN Member States will act as a stimulus to the strengthening of national and ASEAN Economic resilience, and the development of the national economies of Member States</i>
(xv)					xβ	<i>by expanding investment and production opportunities, trade, and foreign exchange earnings;</i>
(xvi)		+6	α			<i>DETERMINED</i>
(xvii)			‘β	α		<i>to further cooperate in the economic growth of the region</i>
(xviii)				xβ	α	<i>by accelerating the liberalisation of intra-ASEAN trade and investment with the objective of creating the ASEAN Free Trade Area</i>
(xix)					xβ	<i>using the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme;</i>
(xx)		+7	α			<i>DESIRING</i>
(xvi)			‘β			<i>to effect improvements on the ASEAN PTA in consonance with ASEAN's international commitments;</i>
(i)	α					<i>have agreed as follows.</i>

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that the sentences in the agreement text under study use clause complexes (56%) more than clause simplexes (44%), showing the complexity of its sentence structure. This complexity is also supported by the fact that most of the clause simplexes use embedded clauses (63%) to give more meanings into the clause simplexes. In terms of interdependency relationship between clauses in clause complexes, the text uses significantly more hypotaxis (82%) than parataxis (18%).

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