Thanh Viet Cao

Curriculum Vitae - updated January 5th, 2026

"The true difference between languages is not in what may or may not be expressed but in what must or must not be conveyed by the speaker." - R. Jakobson

Introduction

My name is Thanh Viet Cao (Vietnamese: "Cao Thành Việt"). My main research interests include semantics, pragmatics, and syntax of classifier languages in light of formal approaches, i.e., model-theoretical semantics and comparative syntax within the framework of generative grammar.

I defended my PhD dissertation (title: *Quantification and Plurality at the Interface: The case of Vietnamese*) on May 14th, 2025, under the supervision of Dr. I-Ta Chris Hsieh. My thesis mainly touches upon strategies of universal quantification (involving the four D-quantifiers *tất-cả, cả, mọi, mỗi*) and plurality (involving *các, những*) in Vietnamese from compositional and cross-linguistic perspectives. Besides, language contact among MSEA languages from historical linguistics aspects, especially the historical lexicology (i.e., etymology) of Vietic languages, has always attracted my attention since the first days I embarked on my journey in linguistics.

Education

2018–2025 **PhD in Linguistics**, *Institute of Linguistics*, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan.
PhD dissertation defended on May 14th, 2025

2014–2017 **MA in Linguistics**, *Vietnam National University, Hanoi*, *GPA: 3.63/4*.
Thesis defended on December 27th, 2016

2009–2013 **BA in Linguistics**, *Vietnam National University, Hanoi*, *GPA: 3.22/4*.
Specialized in General Linguistics

Experience

9/2019– 7/2025 **Research Assistant**, Project: The Syntax and Semantics of Reciprocal Equatives, Manager: Dr. I-Ta Chris Hsieh – Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan).
Annotating data and assisting in the manuscript writing.

9/2019–7/2025	**Guest Lecturer**, Course: Languages of the World *(undergraduate level)*, Lecturer: Dr. Hsiu-chuan Liao – Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan). Introducing the Vietnamese language from the linguistic perspectives.
9/2022–7/2025	**English Teacher**, *Taiwan's ELTA program*, co-ordinated by National Taiwan Normal University. Teaching/Co-teaching English at elementary and junior high schools in Hsinchu, Taiwan.
8/2024–7/2025	**Research Assistant**, Project: Investigating Tày vernacular texts in Northern Vietnam, Manager: Dr. David Holm – Department of Ethnology, National Chengchi University (Taiwan). Translating traditional Tày (deciphered) vernacular texts from Vietnamese to English.
5/2024–2/2025	**AI Trainer**, *Outlier*, Freelance. Evaluating the relevance and quality of AI-generated responses in Vietnamese.
2022–2023	**Teaching Assistant**, Course: Formal Semantics *(graduate level)*, Lecturer: Dr. I-Ta Chris Hsieh – Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan).
9/2013–8/2018	**Vietnamese Lecturer**, *Faculty of Linguistics*, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi. Teaching Vietnamese as a second language for foreign students. Courses: *Spoken Vietnamese* (2013-2015); *Vietnamese and Law* (2013-2015); *Reading Vietnamese Newspapers* (2014-2015); *Vietnamese on Mass Media* (2013-2014)
9/2013–8/2018	**Teaching Assistant**, *Faculty of Linguistics*, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi. Courses: *Foundation of Semantics* (2013 - 2018);*Foundation of Pragmatics* (2013 - 2018)
3/2016–1/2018	**Visiting Vietnamese Lecturer**, *Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures*, University of Finance and Economics, Yunnan, China. Teaching Vietnamese as second language for foreign students
1/2014–10/2014	**Linguistic Documentator**, Doremifa project, Manager: Dr. Alexis Michaud - International Research Institute MICA, Hanoi University of Science and Technology. Annotating the audio data of endangered languages in Vietnam for the Pangloss Collection.
8/2013–12/2013	**Research Assistant**, Project: The prosody and intonation of Southern Vietnamese, Manager: Dr. Marc Brunelle - University of Ottawa. Annotating the audio data of Southern Vietnamese for experimental phonetic analyses.
8/2012–1/2013	**Intern Editor**, *Knowledge Publishing House* - NXB Tri Thức, Hanoi. copy-editing the revised version of *Lev Tolstoi – Đường sống* and *Fall of the Third Reich (Sự sụp đổ của Đế chế thứ Ba)*

Publications

Papers & Presentations

1. Thanh Viet Cao (2026), Sino-Vietnamese linguistic early contact and the three-stage hypothesis, *Taiwan Journal of Linguistics* 24(1), pp.103-155. DOI. <Click here for the paper>.

2. Thanh Viet Cao (2025), *Quantification and Plurality at the Interface: the case of Vietnamese*, PhD Dissertation, National Tsing Hua University <Click here for the full text>.

3. McGuire, Paul, Kye Shibata, Thanh Viet Cao, Feng-fan Hsieh, and Yueh-chin Chang (2025),

Supralaryngeal Kinematics of Implosives in Central Vietnamese: An EMA Study. *Proceedings of Interspeech 2025*, pp. 3484-3488. ISSN 2958-1796 <Click here for the full text> .

4. Thanh Viet Cao (2025), Explaining a gap in wh-quantification involving Vietnamese *cũng*, Paper presented at *2025 NTHU Linguistics Forum: Workshop on Syntax and Semantics*, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan <Click here for the handout>.

5. Thanh Viet Cao (2025), Early Sino-Vietnamese sub-layers and a constraint against final *-s in Proto-Vietic, *JSEALS Special Publication* 13:190–197. E-ISSN: 1836-6821<Click here for the paper>.

6. Viet Cao (2023), Interpreting two types of *cũng*-constructions in Vietnamese, Poster presented at *TEAL-13*, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan <Click here for the poster>.

7. Tue Trinh & Viet Cao (2023), A note on NPI licensing in Vietnamese, Poster presented at *TEAL-13*, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan <Click here for the poster>.

8. Thanh Viet Cao (2022), Vietnamese plural markers *các - những* and beyond, Presentation at *Tsing Hua Students Workshop on Linguistics*, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

9. Thanh Viet Cao (2022), Reanalyzing Vietnamese plural markers *các - những*, Paper (online) presented at *International Semantics Conference - InSemantiC 2022*, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal <Click here for the manuscript>.

10. Thanh Viet Cao (2021), Preliminary Remarks on Syntactic Structures of Vietnamese Purposives, Proceedings of the *6th International Conference on Vietnamese Studies* (ICVNS 2021), Hanoi.

11. Cao Thành Việt (2020), Huyền thoại Babel và chính sách ngôn ngữ trong thế kỉ 21 [The myth of the Towel of Babel and language policies in the 21st century], *Journal of Nghe An Culture* (404+405), pp. 60-63. ISSN 2354-0869.

12. Cao Thành Việt (2017), *The Symmetry Problem and Theories of Implicatures (in English and Vietnamese)*, Master's Dissertation, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. <Click here to see the abstract>

13. Cao Thành Việt (2016), 'Ngữ năng' – 'ngữ hành' và sự cách tân của ngữ pháp tạo sinh ['Competence' – 'Performance' and innovations of generative grammar], *Proceedings of the conference on Researching and Teaching Linguistics - Theoretical and Applied Issues*, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, pp.525–530.

Translations

1. Cao Việt (2024), "Nhà vua, Chiến binh, Pháp sư, Người tình: Tái khám phá những nguyên mẫu nam tính trưởng thành" (*King Warrior Magician Lover: Rediscovering the Archetypes of the Mature Masculine* by Robert Moore & Douglas Gillette), *Thông Tấn Publishing House*.

2. Cao Việt (2021), "Lược sử Triết học" (*A Little History of Philosophy* by Nigel Warburton), *Thế Giới Publishing House*.

3. Ngôn Thành (2020), "Nguyễn Trường Tộ và chữ Nôm" (Nguyen Truong To and Nom character), *Journal of Nghe An Culture* (413), pp. 33-36.

4. Ngôn Thành (2015), "Nguồn gốc những điểm dị biệt trong bảng chữ cái tiếng Việt" (André-Georges Haudricourt - L'origine des particularités de l'alphabet vietnamien), Proceedings of *Chữ Quốc ngữ: Sự hình thành, phát triển và những đóng góp vào văn hóa Việt Nam*, Phú Yên University & University of Social Sciences and Humanities-Ho Chi Minh City.

5. Ngôn Thành (2014), "Một cuộc tranh luận về Ngôn ngữ - Tư duy" (A debate on Language and Thought), *Journal of Nghe An Culture* (279), pp.22-25.

6. Ngôn Thành (2013), "Ai cần Triết học?" (Ayn Rand - Philosophy: Who needs it?), *Journal of Nghe An Culture* (236), pp. 13-16.

Awards and Scholarships

2018–2021 Taiwan Elite Scholarship for SEA lecturers pursuing PhD programs in Taiwan.

2017 Scholarship for Summer School of Slavonic (Czech) Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

2013 Award for the Distinction Achievement in Linguistics major by Rector of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU-Hanoi.

2012 Second Award at the Undergraduate Conference (Topic: *Translation Methods - A Case Study on Translating Literature Book Titles from English into Vietnamese*), University of Social Sciences and Humantities, VNU-Hanoi.

Computer Skills

Advanced LaTeX, MS Office tools
Intermediate Python, R, Praat

Languages

Vietnamese **Mother tongue**
English **Fluent (IELTS 7.0)**
Mandarin **Intermediate**
German **A2 level**

References

Dr. I-Ta Chris Hsieh   Associate Professor, Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.
E-mail: *ita.hsieh@mx.nthu.edu.tw*

Dr. Tue Trinh   Associate Professor, Center for Cognitive Science of Language, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia.
E-mail: *tuetrinh@alum.mit.edu*

Dr.Hsiu-chuan Liao   Associate Professor, Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.
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