The Elements Modifying The Illocutionary Force of Act of Request In Thai and Vietnamese

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ABSTRACT

This study aim to descriptively investigate study the elements modifying of act requests in Thai and Vietnamese. The data were collected form Discourse Completion Test (DCT) by 100 Thai and 100 Vietnamese. All of them having completed 15 different situations. According to 3,000 questionnaires in both Thai and Vietnamese, the strategies of request can be divided into two forms: (1) Internal modification of grammatical elements including grammatical words, phrases and structures, and (2) External modification of words in the contexts associating the act of request to increased or decreased the illocutionary force. The findings suggest that the main structure choices of request strategies are common in both Thai and Vietnamese, but the sub-details structures are different. Namely, unlike Thai, the tactics of praising the listeners for requests are not used in Vietnamese.

Keywords: element modifying, requests, Thai, Vietnamese
Concept

‘Elements modifying of the illocutionary force’ is linguistic elements (words, phrases, grammatical structures) that function to increase or decrease the illocutionary force of the request, and they appear right in the speech act to directly affect a certain part of the speech such as verbs, nouns or affect the whole speech.

Introduction

“Request” is the speech act of the speaker, in order to deliver a message to the hearer, expressing the desire to let the hearer do something. The speaker knows that it is the task, responsibility, right and ability of the hearer. If the hearer fulfills the requirements of the speaker, it will be beneficial for the speaker, but the speaker does not force the hearer to act, so the speaker uses methods and strategies of speech to achieve his/her goals.

The request is considered polite and ‘formal’ and at the same time refers to the ‘power’ nature higher than the suggestion. The request only appears in the context of direct communication including the speaker and hearer at the time of speaking; in the sentence, it is possible to use the imperative structure which always has the elements modifying the illocutionary force to potentially diversify the speech methods for the speaker to select to decrease or increase the act of request, which helps the speaker express his close or intimate or sympathetic or strange relationship with the hearer. The act of request is that the speaker always desires the hearer to do something beneficial to the speaker; the speaker believes that the hearer is able to fulfill that desire but the speaker is not sure if the hearer does it or not; the speaker requires the hearer to perform an A action because that responsibility or task must be completed.

The act of request is divided into two structures: Head Act and Supportive Move. The head act or core part is the implementation of request, the supportive move or auxiliary part is the part that increases or decreases the request force which is called “the elements modifying the illocutionary force of the request”. For example, in DCT questionnaires, “Mai qua chuyển đồ giúp chị nhé, mấy nhóc”/ “Tomorrow, help me move my stuff, kids”. The core part of the request is [Mai qua chuyển đồ giúp
*chi nhé* [Tomorrow, help me move my stuff], and the auxiliary part of the request is *mấy nhóc* (kids).

Many researchers have confirmed that the structure of the request speech is not the only element that creates the request force, but sometimes, it is the peripheral elements that affect a component of the speech or the whole speech.

Therefore, when Thai people communicate in Vietnamese or when Vietnamese people communicate in Thai to make requests, and if the speaker or hearer is in a different context or environment, how different is the choice of the elements modifying the illocutionary force act of request in Thai and Vietnamese?

**Scope the study**

The data were collected form Discourse Completion Test (DCT). All of them have 15 situations, 4 choices (Other answer options for each situation for participants to answer on their own). We distributed DCT questionnaires to 100 Thai and 100 Vietnamese. Thus, the survey content has a total of 3,000 content (200 people 15 situations) and additional daily speeches collected (collected on other answer options of each situation).

**Purpose of the Study**

Comparative study of the strategists element modifying the ullocutionary force of act requests in Thai and Vietnamese.

**Theoretical Framework**

To classify the strategists’ element modifying the ullocutionary force of act requests in everyday conversation, the researcher used the theory of Blum-Kulka et al. (1989). There are three segments of requests: head act, alerters, and supportive moves.

Within the head act, supportive move categories, strategies can be categorized by using Brown and Levinson’s (1987) theoretical framework on face.
The elements modifying the ullocutionary force in Thai and in Vietnamese

For the collected data on act of request, we analyzed in accordance with Searle’s (1975) theory of pragmatics to emphasize the transmission of implications of words, combined the cross-cultural study of speech act realization patterns of Blum-Kulka (1984), Nguyen Van Do (2004) and emphasized the theory of politeness of Brown and Levinson (1987). This article describes the strategies for using elements modifying in Thai and Vietnamese languages which is important in helping to reduce the disgrace of the speaker in order to make requests with the listener found that the elements modifying in the request. We divided the requests into two major groups:

1) Internal elements modification is the core of the request sequence. Speaker might use one or more head acts to make a request by Blum-Kulka et al. (1989) classified head acts in terms of their directness level as:
   a) The most direct, explicit level, realized by request syntactically marked as such, such as imperatives, or by other verbal means that name the act as a request.
   b) The conventionally indirect level, realized the act be reference to contextual preconditions necessary for its performance, as indirect speech acts.

2) External elements modification is a supportive move, non-conventionally indirect level, i.e. The open-ended group of indirect strategies (hint) that realize the request by either partial reference to object or element needed for the implementation of the act.

Factors that alter the inner force of language are language elements (words, phrases, grammatical structures) that function to increase or decrease the force required and appear righteously in the act of the language. with direct impact on a certain component of the speech such as verbs, nouns or affect the whole speech. These include openers, hedges and fillers that accompany the core of the statement.
The examples given are taken from the other answer option’ (written by the respondents themselves, not by the available form) in the DCT form. Thai examples we will translate into Vietnamese in a way that keeps the originals and order of the words in Thai.

1.1 Internal elements modification

1.1.1 Openers: Thai people are often interested in the verbs such as please, help, thanks, ask for, bother, ... (see นววรรณ พันธุเมธา. (2551)) more than the subject, so they often start the sentence with the verb with pleading voice [1].

Example in Thai Sentence 10

(1) [รบกวนสูบบุหรี่ในที่ที่เขาจัดให้นะครับ]
[tormented smoke in the permitted place]

The request sentence in Thai often appears ‘tormented’ [ระบวน1,... , a verb at the opener of the sentence, which plays a role of expressing the function that requires the hearer to do

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1 For more detail in นววรรณ พันธุเมธา. (2551). ไวยากรณ์ไทย. กรุงเทพฯ : โครงการเผยแพร่ผลงานวิชาการ คณะอักษรศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย.

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something at the request of the speaker. In addition, some request sentences have no subject. However, even if the subject does not appear, the hearer can still understand who is the subject of the sentence. In Thai, the verbs are often used to perform the function of making a request, which is also widely seen in Vietnamese by using similar words, not just the word “tormented”.

In Vietnamese we also have the words and phrases to open a speech such as: làm ơn cho tôi.../ please give me ...; nếu không phiền.../ if you don’t mind ...; nếu tiện.../ if convenient...; nếu thuận cho.../ if you agree ...; em không rồ.../ I don’t know ...

Example in Vietnamese
Sentence 7

Excuse me, Sir/Madam, if convenient, I hope you can help to buy a bag for me. I’m not sure about aviation law, do I have to pay for consignment? If you don’t mind, I hope you will help me. If possible, please send me your account number so I can transfer money to you first!

1.1.2 Hedges are a speech to prevent a misunderstanding or reaction to what you are about to say. These hedges are like evidences that allow it to violate a certain principle. We divided the hedges into two major groups:

1.1.2.1 Softeners are the speech to reduce the disadvantages for hearers. We divided Softeners into two parts: diminutives and tag question

a) Diminutives are the words that soften impolite ways of speaking. In order to have a polite speech, it is necessary to adjust the degree of profit – loss to ensure a balance in interpersonal interaction.

In Thai language, adverbs are used (called modal particles in Vietnamese language), such as: ‘ด้วย’ [với], ‘หน่อย’ [một (một chút)], ‘เต่า’ [dì], ‘นะ’ [nhé/dày/nhi], ‘จี’ [chư/di], ‘ี’
[một]², etc… at the end of the sentence as an imperative sentence, but the request sentence usually has a verb modifier added in the sentence to convey a slighter degree of its root meaning like ‘หน่อย’ [một (một chút)], to reduce the face-threatening level so that the hearer finds that the topic is only a small issue.

Example in Thai
Sentence 8
(3) (พี่ xxx) [น้องฝากหยิบปากกาให้น้องหน่อยค่ะ]
(Ms. xxx,) [help me pick up my pen please.]

In Vietnamese, modal particles are the words added to sentences to create sentences according to the purpose of speaking (Interrogative Sentence, Imperative Sentence, Exclamatory Sentence) and to express emotional nuances of the speaker. The main function of modal particles is to create sentences according to the purpose of speaking. People often use the modal particles such as “à, ư, hô, hà, chữ, phòng, chẳng” to create interrogative sentence; “nhi, ư, a…” to show an expression of surprise; “đi, nào, thời, với, chữ…” to show an expression of expectation; “mà, nhé, nhi…” to express close and intimate feelings; “אם” at the end of a sentence to express politeness and respect.

Example in Vietnamese
Sentence 5
(4) (Em có đi đâu không?) [cho chị mượn xe chở bạn chị ra sân bay với nhà.]
(Do you go to anywhere?) [Lend me a car to take my friend to the airport please.]

**b) Question** is a request in the form of question but has illocutionary meaning of request, ie the request has a means to refer illocutionary act of question but implies indirect illocutionary act of request; ได้ไหม, หรือเปล่า are often used in Thai,

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²For more detail in นพวรรณ เมืองแก้ว. (2556). คำแสดงการขอร้องในภาษาไทย: การศึกษาตามแนวทางทฤษฎีการกลางเป็นคำไวยากรณ์. วิทยานิพนธ์อักษรศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาไทย : จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย.
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and “cố...không, có thể...không, được...không...” are often used in Vietnamese.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 3
(5)  (น้องครับ)  (ไม่ทราบว่าพอจะมีเวลาหรือเปล่า)  [อยากจะรบกวนให้น้องช่วยคุณคอมให้หน่อยครับ]  [แต่ถ้าไม่สะดวกก็ไม่เป็นไรครับ]
(Hey,) (I don’t know if you have free time or not.) [Could you please check my computer?] [If it is not convenient for you, it’s okay.]

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 12
(6) Anh ơi, anh có thời gian không a? Anh có thể giải thích bài tập này giúp em được không a?
Excuse me, do you have free time? Can you explain this exercise for me please?

Requests in the form of question are commonly used in both Thai and Vietnamese, because it is a polite way which does not directly give commands, making the hearer feel offensive. If the speaker uses vocabulary to clearly express his intention, it can make the hearer feel embarrassed when listening to that command; therefore, the speaker avoids using such words. It also provides an opportunity for the hearer to choose and decide whether or not to follow the request of the speaker.

1.1.2.2 Intensifiers are the speech to require the hearers to perform the actions desired by the speakers, containing the means marking the illocutionary force of a direct request as follows:

a) Lexical items are the modal verbs such as “ควร ‘nên’, ต้องการ ‘cần’, ต้อง ‘phải’, อยาก ‘muốn (nhờ)’ ...”/ “should, need, must, …”; desire predicates…; particles such as “di, với, nhé,...”, the structure: V + “giúp/hộ/cho,...”.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 9
(7) เราต้องย้ายห้อง ของเยอะมากเลย อยากขอทุกคนช่วยนิดนึงได้มั้ยจ๊ะ เราคงย้ายคนเดียวไม่ไหวแน่เลย

I have to move stuff to a new room and there are too many things, so I want to ask everyone for help. I can’t really move all of them alone.

“Want” is a verb that represents a psychological requirement which needs to do something or needs something and there is a sign that it is about to change to another state. This word shows ‘imperative’, which is used in the case of a communication position of the speaker higher than (corresponding to the act of request) or as high as the hearer (corresponding to the act of suggestion) (Dao Thanh Lan.2005)

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 10
(8) Em nghĩ anh nên đi chỗ khác hút thuốc đi ạ vì đây là khu công cộng mà anh.

I think you should go somewhere else to smoke because this is a public area.

“Should” indicates the linguistic behavior of advice. Therefore, nên “should” has the meaning of “imperative”, specifically: the speaker advises the hearer to perform an action A that mainly benefits for the hearer and sometimes for both hearer and speaker. In the above sentence, the speaker uses “should” to request that the hearer should not do something that is beneficial to the hearer.

From the above sentences, we see that both Thai and Vietnamese have the special words to indicate request, which are obtained due to the simultaneous impact of two factors: the word’s own meaning (vocabulary factor) and the meaning of grammatical structure (grammatical factor).

1.1.3 Fillers are the supportive moves to extend modification of the illocutionary force in order to talk to the hearer and make the hearer follow the request of speaker. We divided the fillers into four groups:
1.1.3.1 Hesitators are indicative of hesitation, wavering or indecision. In Thai language we often see ‘น่าจะ’/ ‘maybe’, ‘อย่าจะ’/ ‘can’, ‘อย่าจะ’/ ‘think that’. In Vietnamese, the following words often appear: có lẽ là/ maybe, có thể là/ can, chả biết có nên...hay không/ I don’t know if I should ... or not, chả biết em có thể.../ I don’t know if I can ...

Example in Thai:
Sentence 10 (9)...
… I think it’s better for you to smoke in the right place, it will have no problem.

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 2 (10)...
… I don’t know if you can arrange some time to help me and …

It can be seen that both Thai and Vietnamese people use the words that express their intentions and opinions clearly without wanting to threaten the hearer by saying threats, commands or explicit requests. Therefore, they chose to use the words to supplement the request for the hearer to meet the needs of the speaker. It also shows politeness when saving faces of both parties. Especially, it can be seen that there are many words used in the speech to express intention of the speaker in Vietnamese rather than in Thai. Just as in the selected words to express hesitation when asking the hearer to follow the request of speaker.

6.1.3.2 Cajolers have a function to clarify the requirements with the desire to make the hearer more enthusiastic in performing an action. Because it can be the words indicating respects, worries, choices, etc... Thai people often use ‘ถ้าไม่รบกวนจนเกินไป’/ ‘If you don’t mind’, ‘เรามองไม่เห็นใคร’/ ‘I don’t see anyone’, ‘เราต้องรบกวนคุณอย่างมากแล้วสักครั้งนี้’/ ‘I have to bother you too much’,
etc... Vietnamese also has similar ways of speaking: nếu... thì/ if ...
; nếu có gì không tiện em cử nói/ if anything is not convenient,
just say it; nếu có gì cần thiết hỗ trợ anh chị cử nói/ if there is
anything necessary to support, just say it; em cử yêu tâm/ rest
assured ...

Example in Thai:
Sentence 10
(11) ตัวไม่รบกวนกันใช่吧?
... If you don’t mind, I can give you a ride …

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 5
(12) Nếu có gì không tiện em cử nói chị sẽ giải quyết.
Mong nhận được phản hồi từ em!
...If anything is not convenient, just say it and I will
solve it. Looking forward to hearing from you!

In both Thai and Vietnamese, the speaker expresses his
affection with the hearer to desire sympathy from the hearer
when asking for help of the hearer, the speaker has chosen to
speak with sympathy. Since then, it is hoped that both parties will
share their feelings about the event that the speaker has said,
whether they are emotions of the speaker or the hearer.

6.1.3.3 Attention-getters are the supportive
moves used to gain the attention of the hearer and often stand
before the request. Thai language often use interjections, words
and phrases such as ‘ขอโทษ’, ‘โอ๊ยยยตายแล้ว’, ‘ตายแล้ว’, ‘แย่แล้วทำไงดี’...
Vietnamese also has similar ways of speaking: “xin lỗi, làm ơn,
này; ê; nghe này, nhìn kìa, a lô”...

For the way of making requests in both Thai and
Vietnamese, the speaker needs to draw attention of the hearer to
increase the weight of the request in order to make the hearer
satisfy the needs of the speaker. It can be seen that both languages
use different words, phrases and contexts between interlocutors
to match the situation. Specifically, giving “apology” from the
beginning of sentence attracts attention of the hearer. It can be
seen that the speaker respects the hearer and understands the
things to be said, and the hearer can cause difficulties or hurt.
Therefore, the speaker chooses to lower his face so that the hearer could understand that the speaker tries to increase the face for the hearer.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 13
(13) **ขอโทษนะคะ** พอดีเราลืมเอากระเป๋าสตางค์มา ยังไงรบกวนช่วยก่อนได้ไหมคะ
วันพรุ่งนี้จะรีบเอาเงินมาคืนให้เลยค่ะ

**Sorry** because I forgot to bring my wallet. Then would you mind helping me first? Tomorrow I will immediately return the money to you.

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 14
(14) **A này**, mình có chút vấn đề về bài báo cáo mà mình sợ một mình thì không kịp deadline, biết là không phải chuyên môn của câu nhưng câu có thể kiểm tra giúp mình một vài chỗ hay số liệu này được không?

**Hey hey**, I have a little problem with the report and I’m afraid I can’t meet the deadline by myself, I know it’s not your specialty but can you help me check some things or some data?

### 6.1.3.4 Address terms

Address terms are the forms of address that represent “solidarity meaning”, “friendship meaning” as signs of identification of teammate. They include title, first name, vocatives, ...

In Thai, the use of personal pronouns is very diverse, not only in ordinary forms, but also in other words unrelated to kin relationship such as “พี่ – หนู/ผม” or “คุณ” + “family vocabulary” and “family vocabulary” + “first name”. We can see that Thai people pay much attention to age and intimacy in different speeches in each situation.

The use of address terms in Vietnamese is often to call people in relative order. Because Vietnamese people focus on kin relationship and family hierarchy, Vietnamese people use address terms to honor and enhance the position of interlocutor.
Using words to address relatives or calling first names appears in both languages, expressing the interest of the speaker for the hearer. Although the choice of words in different languages is different, both languages have the same important points such as respecting the elderly, praising others, showing humility, asking for mercy for the smaller.

6.2 External elements modification

The external elements modifying the illocutionary force are the methods of force modification in language and they often appear in the context associated with the head act of the speech rather than with this speech itself.

6.2.1 Commitment-seeking devices are the fact that before making a request, the speaker wants to check whether he/she should perform this action or not. In other words, the speaker wishes to have some certain conditions for the request to be responded positively and obtain a certain commitment of the hearer for the forthcoming request. These are not the true requests. They are only the words to start the sentence so that the speaker can make the request later. If the hearer does not want to take an action in the future, the hearer can refuse it before the speaker makes a request.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 12
(15)  xxx ผอมีเวลามั้ยจ๊ะ …
     xxxx, do you have free time? …

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 12
(16)  Bạn ơi bạn có rảnh không? Bạn có thể giải thích giúp mình bài tập này được không?
     Do you have free time? Can you explain this exercise to me please?

In the process of giving the initial question, sometimes it is not related to the topic that the speaker wants to request, in fact the speaker only needs to distract the hearer. It is a question used to keep the face of the hearer, including maintaining the
relationship with each other. The speaker does not want to use any words that make the hearer feel uncomfortable about his/her behavior.

6.2.2 Reinforcing devices are the supportive moves which are divided into four groups:

6.2.2.1 Grounders are the speeches related to the reason for taking action. This is especially true for this group; because it could be good promises, suggestions for compensation, but it could also be scary threats.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 5
(17) สัญญาว่าจะขับระวังสุดๆเลยจ้า

…Promise to drive carefully.

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 5
(18) Chì sẽ chạy xe cẩn thận, cảm ơn em nhiều nhé!

…I’ll drive carefully, thank you very much!

6.2.2.2 Disarmers are used not only to prevent the hearer from refusing to do something, but also to persuade the hearer to take an action. It could be compliments, personal opinions of the hearer, formal thanks, pleas, etc... In general, these are the elements that signify awareness of compression and compulsion of request, and the speaker’s concerns about the feeling of the hearer. These elements may appear simultaneously in the same request and may stand before or after the head act of this speech. The common characteristics of these elements are limited indirectly and conventionally the hearer’s ability of rejection so that the hearer responds positively to the request by gently imposing the task of request implementation on the hearer, and so the hearer does not lose face.

In Thai, there are different ways to express “thank you” depending on social distance or intimacy. It can be seen that in some situations, although the speaker is older than the hearer, the speaker still choose the word “thank you” without showing that the speaker is older or his/her social position is higher or equal to the hearer.
In Vietnamese, there is also a sentence showing “thank you”. For example, the (16) sentence mentioned above has added the subject at the beginning of “thank you”. It emphasizes the appreciation when receiving great help of the hearer. Therefore, in Vietnamese, that there is no subject at the beginning of the sentence will show disrespect in the conversation between each other. In addition, obviously in Vietnamese, the use of the compliment method for the hearer to make requests is not common.

6.2.2.3 **Expanders** are repetitive words to increase the illocutionary force of speech or re-emphasize the request.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 5
(19) น้องคะ รบกวนพาที่ไปสนามบินอย่าให้ผมคะ ไปส่งญาติพี่หน่อย ...  Hey, do you mind bringing me to the airport? I see my relatives off.

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 4
(20) Em có thể mượn giúp anh/chị được không? Anh/chị quên thẻ ở nhà, **giúp anh lần này nha**. Can you borrow it for me? I forgot my card at home, help me this time please.

In Vietnamese, ‘giúp’/‘help’ still appears to repeat the request for the second time. It can be seen that both Thai and Vietnamese appear modal particles at the end of the sentence to reduce the threat to the hearer.

6.2.2.4 **Please** is very widely used and valuable to soften the request. However, “please” is not always used to decrease the illocutionary force of speech, sometimes it creates opposite effects.

Example in Thai:
Sentence 13
(21) รบกวนหน่อยสิ เราเสียเอากระเป๋าเป้จากในเสื้อกั๊กที่ทำงาน เราขออภัยถูกก่อน ได้มั้ย กลับถึงออฟฟิศ เราจะคืนให้ทันทีเลย ขอโทษนะที่รบกวน
Excuse me for disturbing you. I forgot to bring my wallet from the working drawer. Can I borrow you first? When going back to my office, I will pay immediately. Sorry to bother you.

Example in Vietnamese:
Sentence 10
(22) Dạ anh/chị ơi, ở đây có biển cấm hút thuốc, mình ra khu vực khác được không a, làm phiền anh/chị!
Excuse me, sir/madam, smoking is prohibited here, can you go somewhere else to smoke, please?

The above sentence shows that the request increases the threat to the face of the hearer rather than reduce the threat.

The request strategies in Thai and Vietnamese: The request strategies can be divided into two forms: (1) the elements of internal modification of illocutionary force are linguistic elements in grammar, including words, phrases or grammatical structures. (2) the elements of external modification of illocutionary force are the words in the context associated with the speech act of request to increase or decrease illocutionary force. The context associated with the request can also be divided into two subgroups including linguistic communication etiquette and non-linguistic communication etiquette in the requests. To increase the efficiency and expect the results of action of hearer, sometimes, it is not possible to clearly indicate the speaker’s intent because the ways of indirect statements can make words reduce or increase the threat to the hearer’s face.

However, modification of illocutionary force is indispensable when using the request strategies in Thai and Vietnamese. If the speaker only gives the request, that request will immediately become an imperative sentence. Therefore, modification of illocutionary force in both languages is very important, and there are only some differences such as the method of preventing refusal. In Thai language, the speaker uses this strategy to realize the compliment given to the hearer by the speaker with the overarching function of harmonizing interpersonal relationships with diverse communication goals. In contrast, in Vietnamese language, this strategy is considered negative and inappropriate.
Therefore, this research paper emphasizes that for successful communication, in addition to learning and understanding grammar, it is necessary to understand the communication strategies to achieve results, especially the request strategies. Although both Thai and Vietnamese have many sub-strategies used in the same way, in terms of details they have differences and the characteristics used in the context of each situation are also different. Therefore, this research will help both Thai and Vietnamese people understand and choose more correct and more appropriate language to use for each situation.

**Conclusion**

The strategy of request in Thai and Vietnamese: It is possible to divide the strategy of request into two forms: (1) Internal modification is grammatical elements including grammatical words, phrases or structures. (2) External modification is the words in the context associated with the act of request to increase or decrease the illocutionary force. To increase efficiency and hope the results of the hearer’s action more quickly and clearly, sometimes, it is not possible to clearly point out the intentions of the speaker because the indirect ways of speaking can make words decrease or increase the threat of the hearer’s face. My Nhat (Tôn Nữ Mỹ Nhật. 2001), a researcher, said; in Vietnamese, indirect sentence is not always more polite than direct sentence because in many cases, indirect sentence means joking or sarcastic. The strategy of request in Thai and Vietnamese is chosen in the same direction in most cases. However, there are still some different points, such as removing subject of sentence. In Thai, the subject may be included or may be removed in the sentence without causing impatience, unlike Vietnamese. According to Do (Nguyễn Văn Đỗ. 2004); in Vietnamese, subject is often used in a sentence, especially when the speaker is younger or has a position lower than the hearer.

However, the use of the request strategy in Thai and Vietnamese cannot be lacked of modification of the illocutionary force. In case the speaker only makes a request, it will become an imperative sentence immediately. Therefore, modification of the illocutionary force in both languages has a very important role, only different from some details such as: method to prevent rejection (In Thai language, the speaker uses this strategy to
realize the speaker’s compliment for the hearer with a comprehensive function which harmonizes interpersonal relationships with various communication purposes. In contrast, in Vietnamese, this strategy is considered negative and irrelevant as Huu Dat (Hữu Đạt. 2009) said, because Vietnamese people have a cultural tradition of respect for feelings, the praise or criticism is rarely straightforward and blunt, but usually subtle; therefore, whether praising or criticizing, they do not say too much. That is the way of behavior formed from the long-standing customs of Vietnamese people. In terms of the gratitude expression, he emphasized in fact this expression appears regularly in Vietnamese communication; the difference is that in the past this expression was done by no using the word “thank you”, but now this type of word is very popular. Thanh Tam (Tạ Thị Thanh Tâm. 2009) also stated that in an informal atmosphere, “thank you” is not explicitly present. On the other hand, using a similar syntagm like ‘khách sáo quá, vế chuyện,…’ is truly appreciated. Specifically, in the case of the speaker = the hearer, whether derived from the position of receiving help or giving help, the gratitude expression is carried out simply and sincerely, especially the implicit variations are considered polite.

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