A Contrastive Study of Korean and Myanmar Classifiers
Focusing on Classifiers relating to things

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Abstract

This paper presents the classifiers relating to things among Myanmar and Korean classifiers. The types of classifiers in both Myanmar and Korean Languages are numerous to be counted and there are limitations in using these today. Classifiers which are frequently used in daily lives are presented selectively from Myanmar prescribed textbook for Korean people for this research for Myanmar students, who are learning Korean Language. This paper attempts to find out similarities and differences by comparing the usage of Korean and Myanmar classifiers from a contrasting linguistics point of view by referring to the standard Korean dictionary and Myanmar dictionary to refer the semantics of the classifiers. Korean classifiers are very diverse in terms of meaning and usage to each classifier in contrast to Myanmar classifiers. On the other hand, there is a case where a taxonomic appears in Korean, but the taxonomic does not appear in the Myanmar expression.

Introduction

Korean researcher Choi Yaung Bal said that classifiers have to be used in counting things. Classifiers play a very vital role and are widely employed in Languages of both Myanmar and Korea. By basing on Chinese and Japanese Language and being together with other different eastern countries' languages, there are abundant nouns which are used as counting units. Classifiers relating to things are a part of noun classifiers and they are widely used in daily lives. This research related to classifiers which are the most important point in revealing a part of language description for understanding the human's world. Hence, this research will be greatly helpful for Myanmar students who are learning Korean Language.

Aim and Objectives

The semantics and usages of the same type of classifier can be different that cause a lot of confusion when foreign learners learn the classifier. Therefore, I would like to help learners who learn Korean or Myanmar as a foreign language or a second language by focusing on the meaning and usage of classifiers used in both languages.

Research questions

The research questions raised by the present study are:

1. How can the word choice and writing style of Korean and Myanmar Classifier be analyzed?
2. How can student improve their language competency by things Classifier?
3. Why is the analysis of Classifier relating to things of Korean and Myanmar Language important?

Literature Review

Classifiers can be found in all languages: not only South East Asian countries such as Thai, China, Myanmar, and Vietnam but also East Asian countries like Korea, China, and Japan. They can be learned in research papers done in these countries. However, apart from Chinese, Japanese and Korean Languages, there are a few contrastive researches on classifiers

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especially those in Myanmar and Korean Languages can be seen. Thus, the contrastive study of classifiers on these two languages was done in this research.

The researches on classifiers in Korean Language can be seen after 1970 and they were mainly focused on meanings, and classifying the names of them. Choi Young Bal (1971) argued classifiers as (lump, Ahn, Eung-gung), Kim Young Hee (1983) defined classifiers as counting words, and Nam Gi Shin and Go Young Gon (1993) defined classifiers as specified dependent noun. In research on classifiers of amount, Wu Young Soak (1999) did the research that can be used a reference. In this research, the classifier is grammatically defined as the noun specifier. Its origin is the specification of noun. According to syntax, the classifier can stand independently and add after nouns. It is also divided into classifiers describing amount and classifiers describing types.

The contrastive study of classifiers between Korean and Myanmar Languages are rare. The only research on classifier of Myanmar language is A Re-examination of classifier in Burmese (1967) by whom. In this research, the classifier is defined as the word which classifies the animate or inanimate nouns that have the same characteristic. For example, in counting the number of human, the classifier (ယောက်) is used. Moreover, the noun which the classifier specified has more than one characteristic. For instance, the word "Elephant" can be specified and described by using classifiers as "ဆင် တစ် ကောင်" and "ဆင် တစ် စီး". In describing like above examples, the classifiers have to be chosen depending on the context.

Apart from previous research, there is a contrastive research on classifiers between Korean and Thai Languages. (Kim Ujin, 2012) That research is done by analysing Korean Language syllabus and Thai Language syllabus and constrasted classifiers which are necessary to use in educational context for Thai Language learners. Most of the published researches on classifiers focused on classifiers which are not widely used at present. So, niches in doing reserch can be pointed that there was no consideration about the current usage on classifiers whether they are used in today Korean Language learning educational context. Moreover, there is no research on contrastive study of classifiers in Korean language syllabus for foreigners and classifiers in Myanmar language. The scope of this research is classifiers on types, classifiers on amount, and classifiers that specify nouns that already described amount in Myanmar language, and .noun classifiers and verb classifiers in Korean Languages by compiling classifiers in Myanmar language and Korean language.

Noun classifiers divide things in both languages as animate and inanimate. Thus, this research presents contrastively on same characteristics and functions of things in both languages.

Materials and Method

The required data for this research is collected from the compilation of classifiers in Myanmar from Myanmar Prescribed textbook, "Language and its shape and pattern: Myanmar Dialogue-2" written by Maung Khin Min (DaNuPhyu) 2016 and collecting of research papers on classifiers such as "Classifiers in Korean Language" by Jeong Young Ban (2018), "A Contrastive study of classifiers between Korean Language and Thai Language" by Kim Ugin (2012), "A Contrastive study of type of classifiers between Korean Language and Thai Language" by a Chinese scholar (2009). Similarities and Differences of the characteristics of Korean and Myanmar classifiers relating to things are presented by analyzing them in terms of meaning, contrasting classifiers in Korean language with those in Myanmar.

Research Findings

The Characteristics of noun classifiers' meaning in Korean Language and Myanmar Language

Noun classifiers in Korea Language are mainly described as two such as classifier on materials and classifiers on amount. Classifiers on amount show the number of nouns and make classifying the types of nouns. It is also relating with counting. In Myanmar Language, classifier is under the category of noun. Classifiers in Myanmar Language can be divided into three such as classifiers on types, classifiers on amount, and classifiers that specify nouns that already described amount.

Myanmar Language classifiers on types and amount are similar with those in Korean and classifiers that specify nouns that already described amount are used in front of one syllable word and after two syllabi word.

Classifier used in one syllable word (reusing noun in front of number as a classifier)

1. အိမ် ၁ အိမ် (집 한 집)

Classifier used in two syllable word (reusing noun after two syllable word as a classifier)

2. ဘုန်းကြီး ကျောင်း ၁ ကျောင်း (사원 한 사원)

Classifiers relating to things in Myanmar and Korean Languages

Things in this world can be divided into those formed in terms of nature and those formed without nature. The former one includes human, animals, things describing vegetables and trees and the latter one includes the rest of inanimate things. Thus, the types under the category of classifiers are explained explicitly by classifying them in terms of meaning.

1.   **Human**

In classifiers of Korea Language, classifiers relating to human are used in counting them: "분(ပါး)" is for courteous use and "놈(ကောင်)" is used for understatement in counting boys.

1. ကျောင်းသား နှစ် ယောက် ကျောင်းပြောင်းလာသည်။(전학생 두 명이 왔다.)

2. ဒီနေ့ ဆရာ နှစ် ပါးကို ဖိတ်၍ စားဖွယ် တည်ခင်းည့်ခဲ့သည်။

(오늘 교수님 두 분을 모셔서 식사를 했다.)

3. ဤအတန်းကို တက်သော ကျောင်းသားသည် နှစ်ယောက်အပြင် မရှိပါ။

(이 수업을 듣는 학생이 두 사람밖에 없다.)

4. ရဲသားသည် သူခိုး ငါး ကောင်ကို ဖမ်းခဲ့သည်။ (경찰이 도둑 다섯 놈을 잡았다.)

The classifier "분(ပါး)" is courteous use for a man of highly social status or elders and it is not suitable for using in normal person. The word "human" is sued as a noun in Korean Language and it can be used together with othr counting units and to describe human in terms of number. "놈(ကောင်)" is mostly used in Korea to describe thiefs and crimials as an understatment to them. The chinsese word "명(ယောက်)" is used to describe the number of

people and it can be used without limitations and combined with other nouns relating to humans. Another Chinese word "인(ယောက်)" can be used in counting humans but it has limited usages in terms of grammar.

In Myanmar Language, in using the word [လူ] , the social status has to be considered since there are classifiers as "ဆူ"၊ "ပါး"၊ "ယောက်"၊ "ကောင်" in counting humans. In the situation without thinking of social status, the classifier "ဦး" is used. In describing Gautama Buddha and other Buddha images, "ဆူ" is used, is for in terms of monks, "ယောက်" is for the number of human, and "ကောင်" is for a understatment in counting human.

1   ဘုရား ၁ ဆူ   (부처님 한 <u>분</u>)
2   သံဃာ ၂ ပါး   (승인 두 <u>분</u>)
3   မိန်းမ ၅ ယောက်   (여자 다섯 <u>명</u>)
4   သား ၁ ကောင်   (자식 한 <u>놈</u>)
5   ခရီးသည် ၁၀ ဦး   (여행자 열 <u>명</u>)

In the word "အာဇာနည် ၉ ဦး", "ဦး" is used as a word showing respect to them.

2.   Animals

In Korean Language, "마리(ကောင်)" is used as a number word. In today Korean Language, the word "마리(ကောင်)" also describes in terms of Chinese classifiers "미" and "필" for fish and animals. The Korean origin word "병" is used to count eagles in hunting and it cannot be used in every place. The word "두" has the same meaning with the Korea origin word "마리" and it is used in counting animals. "미" is used in counting fish and insects. "수" has the same meaning with "마리" and it is used in counting hens and ducks and "필" is used for counting "horse and cattle".

1   {ယုန်/ကြက်/သိုး...} ၅ ကောင် (토끼/ 닭/ 양..... 다섯 <u>마리</u>)
2   သိန်းငှက် ၁ ကောင်   (매 한 <u>병</u>)
3   ဝက်/နွား ၂၀ ကောင်   (돼지/ 소 스물 <u>두</u>)
4   ငါးကွင်းရှပ် ၁၀ ကောင်   (고등어 열 <u>미</u>)
5   ဘဲ/ကြက် ၅ ကောင်   (오리/ 닭 다섯 <u>수</u>)
6   မြင်း/နွား ၆ ကောင်   (여섯 <u>필</u> 의 말/소)

There are limitations like the classifier "수" is used for ducks and hens, "필" is for horse and cattle, "미" is for counting fish, and "두" is for describing the number of pigs, sheep, and cows. Another point to be noted is that the chinese classifiers "수,필,미,두" are used with Korean words not the Chinese words.

In Myanmar Language, generally classifier "ကောင်" is used for animals and "စီး" is for animal transportation.

1. ခွေး ၁ ကောင်   (개 한 마리)
2. ဆင် ၂ စီး   (코끼리 두 마리)

3.   Trees and Vegetables

"그루(ပင်)" is the classifier used in counting tress and "(다발)စည်း" is for describing flowers and vegetables, "포기(ထုပ်)" is for counting as roots. "뿌리(မြစ်)" is used in counting gensins and onion grass in which there are many roots. "송아리(ခိုင်)" is used in counting the collection and pack of fruits and flowers. "송이(ပွင့်)" is generally for describing the number of flower. "통(လုံး)" is used to count watermelon, cabbage, and grouts.

1. မိုးမခပင် ၁ ပင်
2. မြက် ၅ ထုံး
3. ဂျင်းစင်းရိုင်း ၅ မြစ်
4. နှင်းဆီပန်း ၁ ပွင့်
5. ဖရဲသီး ၂ လုံး

"ပွင့်၊ မြစ်" are used for counting small and slender eatable plants. Chinese Classifiers for vegetables and plants are used in written language but Korean Classiferies are used in counting in terms of spoken language.

In Myanmar Language, classifiers for trees are depending on their parts and used as "ပင်"၊ "ရွက်"၊ "ကိုင်း"၊ "မြစ်" . "ပင်" is used in counting the number tress. "ရွက်" is used for leaves, "ကိုင်း" is for branches, "မြစ်" is used for counting roots. Moreover, "ပွင့်" is used in counting the number of flowers and buds are used as the classifier ဖူး. "ထုပ်" is generally used for counting cabbage.

1. သစ်ပင် ၁ ပင်
2. သစ်ရွက် ၂ ရွက်
3. သစ်ကိုင်း ၁ ကိုင်း
4. အမြစ် ၁ မြစ်
5. နှင်းဆီ ၁ ပွင့်
6. အဖူး ၂ ဖူး
7. ဂေါ်ဖီထုပ် ၁ ထုပ်

4.   Clothes

In Korean Language, the number of clothes is used in terms of classifier "벌(စုံ)". "감(စ)" is generally used for spreads of clothes, and "올(မျှင်)" is for streams of textile.

1. အနောက်တိုင်း ဝတ်စုံ ၅ စုံ

2. ကိုရီးယား ရိုးရာ အကျီ ၅ စု

3. ကြိုးမျှင် ၅ မျှင်ပါ ကြိုးဖြင့် မြဲမြံစွာ ချည်နှောင်ခဲ့သည်။

The classifier "장(ထည်)" in Korean Language is used in counting shirts and V-shped shirt. "점(ထည်)" is also used for the number of clothes and the classifier named "착(စုံ)" has the same usage of Korea origin word "벌(စုံ)" and they are used for counting clothes. "필(လိပ်)" is for roll of cotton cloth which has a certain lenght.

1. ရုပ်အကျီ ၅ ထည်

2. အဝတ် ၁၅ ထည်

3. အမည်းရောင် စောင်လိပ် ၂၀ လိပ်

In Myanmar Language, generally in counting clothes, the "ထည်" classifier is used. In counting the piece of cloth, the classifier "စ" is used and "စုံ" is for the whole set of clothes including tops and bottoms.

1. အဝတ် ၁၀ ထည်၊ စောင် ၁ ထည်

2. အဝတ်စ ၄ စ

3. ညအိပ်ဝတ်စုံ ၅ စုံ

5. Appearance

The classifier depicting appearance in Korean Language '가락, 개비, 닢, 모, 방울' is at goyeou-eo   and at hanja-eo. Classifiers are defined according to appearance. For example, as noodle and hair have slander shape, the classifier '가락(ချောင်း)' is used. Also, '장(ရွက်)' is for flat objects like paper, or glass '모(ခု)' is used for describing square shaped things like bean cake. For example-

담배 다섯 **개비**

국수 한 **가락**

떡 다섯 **가래**

종이 한 **장**

In Myanmar Language as well, classifiers are defined in terms of things' appearance. 'လုံး' is for rounded things and 'လိပ်' is for small and long things, 'ချပ်' is for flat things.

ပန်းသီး ၁လုံး

ဆေးလိပ် ၁လိပ်

တံခါး ၁ချပ်

6. Place

In Korean Language, the classifier which describes place is '곳'. In locating tower, '기' is used and for Buddha Image '좌' is used. For example,

세 <u>곳</u>

석탑 여러 <u>기</u>

부처님 동상 한 <u>좌</u>

Classifiers in Myanmar Language which describes location are ' လုံး၊ အိမ်၊ တိုက်၊ ကျောင်း၊ ခန်း၊ ထပ်'.

For example,

အိမ် ၁<u>အိမ်</u>

တိုက်ခန်း ၁<u>ခန်း</u>

ကျောင်း ၁<u>ကျောင်း</u>

7. Transportation

Classifiers describing transportation in Korean Language are '틀, 대, 문, 발, 척, 승'. '대' is the classifier used for transportation in land and water route. The transportation used in old days such as carts, and rickshaw are described by using '승'. and for the transportation of waterway '척' is used. For Myanmar Language, Classifiers for transportation are စီး and စင်း.

For example,

မော်တော်ဆိုင်ကယ် ၁<u>စီး</u>

ရထား ၁ <u>စင်း</u>

Contrastive study of classifiers for animate and inanimate things in Korean and Myanmar Languages

"ယောက်" is a genearl classifier in Myanmar Language. The use of "ယောက်" is same as "사람, 명, 인" in Korean Language. The formal classifier for human in Korean Language "분" is similar to "-ပါး" in Myanmar. The normal usage "사람, 명, 인" classifiers are similar to "-ဦး၊ -ယောက်" in Myanmar Language. Although Korean Language use "놈" in counting lower social status people, Myanmar use "-ယောက်". As an inferior classifier for counting lower social status people in Myanmar, "-ကောင်" which is used in animals is employed for those who committed crimes or breaches social norms. Generally, "-ယောက်" is used. "-ဆူ" is used for the Lord Buddha and his relating things in Buddhism. "-ပါး" is used for both kings and

monks practicing Buddhism. "-ကောင်" is also the classifier used for dead people. Classifiers in both language can be divided into three (formal, normal, informal) as mentioned above.

Table (1): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to human or personal

Classifiers relating to human or personal	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
Formal	분	-ဆူ၊ -ပါး
Informal	놈	ကောင်
Normal	사람, 명, 인	ယောက်

Classifiers relating to animals in Korean Language are "마리" for animals in general, "두" for four legged animals, "미" for aquatic animals, "수" for domestic animals like hens and ducks, "필" for cows and horses. Though Korean Language have many classifiers in describing animals, Myanmar has only one classifier- "-ကောင်". In counting animals which are used in transportation, Myanmar use the classifier "-စီး". This is the difference between Myanmar and Korean Languages.

Table (2): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to animals

Classifiers relating to animals	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
ကိုယ်စားပြုဖော်ပြမှု	마리	ကောင်၊ စီး
ခြေလေးချောင်းရှိ တိရိစ္ဆာန်များ	두	×
ရေတွင်ရှိ တိရိစ္ဆာန်များ	미	×
အိမ်မွေးတိရိစ္ဆာန်	수	×

Classifiers relating to plants can be divided into two types including classifier for the whole plant and classifier for plants' parts. The former one in Korean Language has "그릇, 포기, 송아리, 통" and "ပင်၊ ထုပ်" in Myanmar language. The latter one has "뿌리, 송이" in Korean Language and "ရွက်၊ ကိုင်း၊ မြစ်၊ ပွင့်၊ ဖူး" in Myanmar Language. ဟူ၍ ရှိသည်။ The classifiers have different uses in both languages.

Table (3): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to plants

Classifiers relating to plants	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
The whole plant	그루, 포기, 송아리, 통	ပင်၊ ထုပ်
Part of the plant	뿌리, 송이	ကိုင်း၊ မြစ်၊ ပွင့်

As classifiers relating to clothes, Korean Language has "벌, 착, 감, 실, 올, 점" and Myanmar has "ထည်၊ စ၊ စုံ". As a difference in counting clothes, Korean language has "벌, 착, 장" in terms of Chinese language and Korean language and Myanmar have just only "-ထည်". It can be said that the classifer called "-စုံ" in Myanmar language is used for describing the whole set of a mans clothes.

Table (4): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to clothes

Classifiers relating to clothes	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
Clothes	벌, 장, 잠, 착	ထည်
Piece of cloth	감	စ
Tops/Bottoms	×	စုံ

In classifiers relating to appearance, "모" and "척" are used for counting squared things. "알, 알갱이, 톨, 환" are used for counting solid things and "방울" is for small droplets. For counting slander parts, "개비" is used and "가락" is for small and slander things. "가래" is for counting particles such as rice seeds or coffee. "오라기" is for counting long and small parts like hair, treads, straws and strings. In counting paper and mirror, "장" is used and for flat objects like money, sheets, bags made of jute, there is a classifier called "닢". There are different classifiers depending on different appearance. In Myanmar language, usage of classifiers relating to shape is similar to Korean language. Especially in Myanmar language, the classifier "-ခု" can be used in counting every things, that is different from Korean Language. The classifier "ခုိ" has similar meaning of "개" in Korean Language and the usage can be seen widely. By looking this facts, there are many similarities in classifiers relating to shape in both languages.

Table (5): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to shape

Classifiers relating to shape	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
Round	알, 알갱이, 방울, 톨, 정, 환	လုံး
Small and slander	개비, 개래, 오라기	လိပ်၊ စင်း၊ ချောင်း
Square	모, 체	×
Thin and flat	닢, 장	ချပ်

In classifiers relating to buildings in Korean Language, the classifier "곳" is used in many ways depending on context. In Myanmar language, except from the classifier "လုံး", the classifier "층" in Korean language and "ထပ်" in Myanmar have the same usage in counting storey in high-rise buildings.

Table (6): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to buildings

Classifiers relating to buildings	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
House	채, 칸, 간	လုံး၊ အိမ်
Counting rooms	동	ခန်း
Counting stories	층	ထပ်

Korean language has diffierent classifiers relating to transportation such as waterway, land route, and air. However, Myanmar has just only "စီး၊ စင်း". In counting vehicles on moving, and transportation, the classifier "-စီး" is generally used and "စင်း" is used in counting the number of transportation. This point is the difference in both languages. The number of classifiers relating to transportation in Korean Language is much more than that of Myanmar.

Table (7): Comparison on the use of classifiers relating to transportation

Classifiers relating to transportation	Korean Language	Myanmar Language
Land Route	대, 량, 승	×
Waterway	대, 척	×
Vehicle	대, 량, 승, 척	စီး၊ စင်း

In classifiers relating to farms, "거웃, 고랑, 다랑이, '뙈기, 배미,이랑" are classifiers coming from mother language: Korea. "필, 필지" is used for counting fields, farms, spaces and forests. In Myanmar language, "ကွင်း၊ ကွက်၊ ခင်း" are classifiers. "ကွင်း" is used for counting field without exact space. "ကွက်" is for square shaped field. "ခင်း" is used for counting plantation. It is found that both languages have same form of counting fields.

Table (8): Comparsion on the use of classifiers relating to farms

Classifiers relating to farms	ကိုရီးယားဘာသာစကား	မြန်မာဘာသာစကား
လယ်ယာမြေ	거웃, 고랑, 다랑이, 뙈기, 배미, 이랑	×
လယ်	배미	ကွင်း၊ ကွက်
ယာ	고랑	ခင်း

Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper constratively describes the meanings and use of animate and inanimate classifiers in Korean and Myanmar Languages.

The meaning and different types of classifiers in Korean and Myanmar Languages are described. In Korean Language, the name and meaning of classifiers are different depending on the scholars. In Myanmar Language, the dictionary meaning of classifiers and types of classifiers are explained through Myanmar scholar Dr. Hla Pe(1965). The similarity in both languages' classifiers is they do not stand alone and are used with other nouns. Nouns classifiers, animate and inanimate classifiers and their specifications in both languages are explained and depending on animate and inanimate classifiers, human, animals, plants, clothes, appearance, building, transportation and other types are divided. According to this, animate and inanimate classifiers need the number of noun and their classification. In fact, in describing the number of nouns in animate and inanimate classifiers, there is a relationship with the types of nouns and classifiers. It means that classifiers and the nouns they classify have the same meaning.

It was found that some classifiers in Korean Language cannot be found in Myanmar. As it is described in this paper, the usage of classifiers in both languages is complexed and abundant. All classifiers in Korean and Myanmar Languages cannot be presented in this paper. Further explanation should be done on it. However, it is believed that this paper will be supportive for those who are learning classifiers. Due to different difficulties, it needs some nicks to be filled since this paper only presented about animate and inanimate classifiers among classifiers. Further studies should be done on different kinds of classifiers mainly.

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ကျော်အောင်စထားဆရာတော်၊ ပထမ၊(၁၉၆၂)၊ မြန်မာသဒ္ဒါနှစ်စောင်တွဲ၊ဟံသာဝတီပုံနှိပ်တိုက်॥

ခင်မင်၊မောင်॥(ခန့်ဖြူ)၊ (၂၀၁၃)၊ ဘာသာစာပေအသွေးအရောင်အဆင်အကွက်၊ ရာပြည့်စာအုပ် တိုက်॥

ခင်မင်၊မောင်॥(ခန့်ဖြူ)၊(၂၀၁၆)၊ မြန်မာစကားဝိုင်း၊ ရာပြည့်စာအုပ်တိုက်॥

ဖေမောင်တင်၊ဦး॥(၁၉၅၅)၊ အလယ်တန်းမြန်မာသဒ္ဒါ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်၊ရန်ကုန်॥

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