

(Marc Tang) (Taiwan National Chengchi University)

論文題目(中文): 世界語言中分類詞、性別詞與複數標記的分與合：GIS 的類型學研究

論文題目(英文): A GIS Typological Analysis of the Convergence and Divergence among Numeral Classifiers, Genders and Plural Markers in the World's Languages

指導教授: One-Soon, Her

1. 摘要(1-2 頁)

(請填寫摘要內容；中英文皆可)

The main purpose of this thesis is to explain the typological and areal distribution between numeral classifiers, grammatical genders and grammatical plural markers. Numeral classifier systems are mainly present in South-East Asia and parts of South-America while languages with genders and grammatical plural markers are generally attested in Europe, Africa and parts of the Americas (Aikhenvald, 2000; Gil, 2013; Corbett, 2013; Haspelmath, 2013). We propose that this is due to their convergent features of count/mass distinction and semantic classification in noun phrase. As displayed in Table 1: numeral classifiers carry both simultaneously: assigning the noun to the category of 'long-shape objects' and highlighting that it is countable. For mass noun, the phrase would use a measure word (quantifier) instead (Li & Thompson, 1981). Second, genders provide semantic classification to facilitate referent tracking (Luraghi, 2011; Contini-Morava & Kilarski, 2013). Finally, grammatical plural markers point out the countability of the noun, e.g. only count nouns can take plural marking: 'some tables' but 'some water' (Sanches & Slobin, 1973; Greenberg, 1990; Ghomeshi & Massam, 2012).

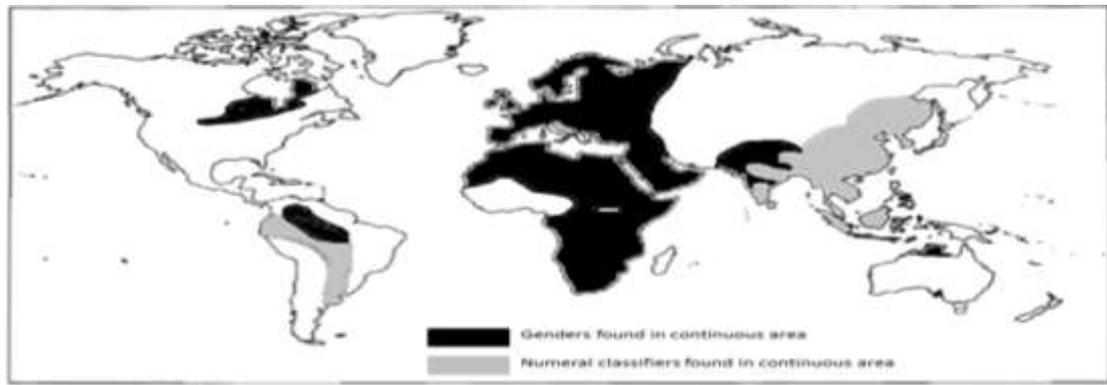
Table 1. Semantic functions of numeral classifiers, genders and plural markers

	Countability	Classification	Example
Num classifier	Yes	Yes	Chinese 'one CL-long fish'
Gender	No	Yes	French 'table, fem'/'book, mas'
Plural marker	Yes	No	English -s 'three tables'

We hypothesize that numeral classifiers and plural markers both mark countability in semantic function and syntactic form, therefore should not occur together (Borer, 2005; Hsieh, 2009; Her & Chen, 2013). Numeral classifiers and genders show overlap in semantic function rather than syntactic form, therefore the redundancy is acceptable but in low frequency (Greenberg, 1974; Dixon, 1986:111; Li, 2000; Blench, 2012). Finally, genders and plural markers bear separately the two types of information and

should appear in the same environment, unless another carrier fulfilling the same purpose is found, e.g. noun classifiers. A sample is demonstrated via Map 1, with the tendency not to co-occur between numeral classifiers and genders.

Map 1. Numeral classifiers and genders, adapted from Aikhenvald (2000:78,122)



Formal theoretical evidence is provided in our thesis, furthermore supported by typological, geographical and historical analysis of 155 languages: covering 65% of the world population and including the top 20 biggest groups such as Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic, Austronesian, Niger-Congo, Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian, among others, allowing us to provide an explanation toward the variation and interaction of gender and classifier systems.

2. 貢獻(1-2 頁)

(請填寫貢獻內容；中英文皆可)

This thesis not only covers a great number of languages (155) of wide typological diversity, e.g. Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic, Niger-Congo, Austronesian, Dravidian, Japonic, Altaic, Austro-Asiatic, Tai-Kadai, Creole, Nilo-Saharan, Uralic, Quechuan, Hmong-Mien, Mayan, North Caucasian, Language isolates, among others, but also offers innovative insights into the convergence and divergence among numeral classifiers, gender markers, and plural markers. Our contributions may be summarized in three points: first of all, based on the literature review, we provide a clear definition for the three elements in discussion: numeral classifiers, genders and plural markers. Second, they were compared by pair in the past but no previous research ever combined them together to explain their typological distribution and this is also the main contribution of this study. As an example, Greenberg (1990) hypothesized a long time ago that numeral classifiers and plural markers tend not to co-occur. Then, Borer (2005) provided theoretical syntactic evidence and said even

more directly that they are the same thing. But until now no precise statistics and cross-language typological evidence were provided. Third, the geographical distribution of the three elements have been studied separately (Aikhenvald,2000; Gil, 2013; Corbett, 2013; Haspelmath, 2013) but their results have not been combined to analyze their convergence and divergence in languages of the worlds, which we did via the use of GIS (geographic information system) in presenting the geographical distribution of typological features and their convergence and divergence, as demonstrated in Map 1. As a summary, by standing on the shoulders of giants from the linguistic literature, this thesis proposes new findings within nominal classification systems research via an innovative methodology combining typological data and GIS software.