

Thesis Title Classifiers in Burmese
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ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to collect classifiers in standard Burmese in order to analyse the co-occurrence between the classifier and the noun they occur with and to see the semantic relationship between the classifier and its noun.

The data is given from four Burmese informants who stay in Bangkok. In this study the principle of classification follows that of Allan 1977. More than 200 classifiers have been analysed into semantic groups concerning material, shape, consistency, size, location, arrangement and quantity. They can be divided into three main groups : classifiers, quantifiers and repeaters.

The analysis is that a single noun can, on different occasions, be accompanied by different classifiers, usually with more or less variation in meaning. The choice among Burmese classifiers carries a far greater semantic load than such purely

syntactical categories. However, the general classifier is not based on semantic feature of the classified noun and it is used with the large number of heterogenous inanimate objects.

This thesis is divided into five chapters which deal with the introduction, the Burmese language, classifying the categories of Burmese classifiers, analyzing Burmese classifiers and the last chapter deals with a brief conclusion and some suggestions for further studies.