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Introduction

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## *Preface*

Every language has some means of categorizing objects into humans, or animates, or by their shape, form, size, and function. The most wide-spread are linguistic genders, grammatical classes of nouns based on core semantic properties such as sex (female and male), animacy, humanness, and also shape and size. Classifiers of several types also serve to categorize entities. Numeral classifiers occur with number words, possessive classifiers appear in the expressions of possession, and verbal classifiers are used on a verb, categorizing its argument. Genders and classifiers of varied types can occur together. Their meanings reflect beliefs and traditions, and in many respects mirror the ways in which speakers view the ever-changing reality. This volume elaborates on the expression, usage, history, and meanings of noun categorization devices of different kinds, exploring their various facets across the languages of South America and Asia, known for the diversity of their noun categorization.

This volume starts with a typological introduction outlining the types of noun categorization devices, their expression, scope, and functions, in addition to the socio-cultural aspects of their use, and their development. It is followed by revised versions of papers originally presented at the International Workshop •Genders and classifiers in Amazonia and beyond• organized by the editors and held at the Language and Culture Research Centre, James Cook University, ... August . An earlier version of Chapter was circulated to the contributors, with a list of issues to be addressed, so as to ensure that the studies of individual languages within this volume were cast in terms of a common set of parameters. This is the ninth monograph in the series *Explorations in Linguistic Typology*, devoted to volumes from International Workshops organized by the Language and Culture Research Centre and its predecessors.

The Workshop, and subsequent discussions between the editors and the authors, were intellectually stimulating, with cross-fertilization of ideas and scholarly debates. Each author has undertaken intensive fieldwork and has firsthand in-depth knowledge of their languages, in addition to experience of working on linguistic typology, historical and comparative linguistics, and language contact and areal diffusion. The analysis is uniformly cast in terms of basic linguistic theory, the cumulative typological framework which provides the foundation for sound empirically-based descriptive and analytic works. We avoid formalisms (which provide reinterpretations rather than explanations, and come and go with such frequency that any statement made in terms of them is likely to soon become inaccessible).

It is our hope that this volume will further contribute to a consolidated conceptual and analytic framework, primarily established in the previous work by Aikhenvald.



## Notes on the contributors

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald is Distinguished Professor, Australian Laureate Fellow, and Director of the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University. She is a major authority on languages of the Arawak family, from northern Amazonia, and has written grammars of *Bare* ( ) and *Warekena* ( ), plus *A Grammar of Tariana, from Northwest Amazonia* (CUP, ), and *The Manambu language of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea* (OUP, ) in addition to essays on various typological and areal topics. She is the editor of *Oxford Handbook of Evidentiality* (OUP, ) and co-editor, with R. M. W. Dixon, of *The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Typology* (CUP, ). Her other major publications include *Classifiers: a typology of noun categorization devices* (OUP, ), *Evidentiality* (OUP, ), *Imperatives and Commands* (OUP, ), *Languages of the Amazon* (OUP, ), *The Art of Grammar* (OUP, ), *How Gender Shapes the World* (OUP, ), and *Serial Verbs* (OUP, ). Address: Language and Culture Research Centre, James Cook University, PO Box 6880, Cairns, N Qld 4878, Australia; e-mail: Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au

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# *Abbreviations*

- 2           rst person
- 2           one-dimensional

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"	conditional
" 1	conjunction
"	connective
" #	continuative
" # *#	contrast
"	copula
"	completive marker
"*	copula subject
"#*	close to speaker
D	possessed
#	dative case
"	deictic classifier
" 7	deictic classifier
7	denite
'	delimitative
'	demonstrative
':	inanimate demonstrative
':	demonstrative identifier
"	deprecatory
*	desiderative
'	diminutive
'	directional
. *	away-from-speaker direction
. !	downward direction
. *	downstream direction
. *	nonspecific direction
.	upward direction
*#	distal
*#	distributive
'	discourse marker
'	discourse particle
'	•derivational•
'	durative
'	event nominalizer
3	egophoric



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' imperative

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3	negative
3. *#	negative existential
neuter	neuter gender (no abbreviation)
#	neutral (classi er)
nf	non-feminine
nfem	non-feminine
7	non-future indicative
'	non-human
NJ	Native Japanese
NK	Northern Kampa
'	non-masculine
'0	nominalization
'0	nominalizer
No	Nomatsiguenga
'	nominative
7'	non-feminine
"	noun classi er
	noun phrase
*#	non-past
*3	nonsingular
*	non-speci c
'."	numeral classi er
	object of transitive verb
61	object
P	patient
Paj	Pajonal Ashéninka
**	passive
*#	past (no abbreviation)
	paucal
" 7	possessive classi er
Pe	Perené Alto
7	perfective
Pi	Pichis Ashéninka
, pl	plural
. "	plural exclusive



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.	"	plural inclusive
		personal name
		polite
*	.	positive polarity
**		possessive, possessor
#		potential
		plural participants
		•pronominal•
		predicative
		preposition
*		presential
*	*	present visual
3		progressive
		personal pronoun
		proximal
#"		participle
		purposive
9		question marker
9	#	quantifier
		possessor
"		relative clause

*/ .#	topical S/A subject
* 9	sequential
*7	sentence- nal particle
*3, sg	singular
sgf	singular feminine
sgnf	singular non-feminine
* '	similative
SJ	Sino-Japanese
SK	Southern Kampa
*	subject honorific
*	specific
Sp	Spanish
SS	same subject
*# #	stative
* 6	subordinator
* 61	subjunctive
* 6*	substance (classifier)
T	eme
# '	terminative
#	thematic
#	topic
trid	tridimensional
##	title
" #	uncertainty
""	verbless clause complement
"	verbal classifier; verbal action classifier in Chapter 2<
"*	verbless clause subject
6."	verbal classifier
#	vertical
'	valency modifier