

International workshop on “Nominalization, Gender and Classifiers”

**Jointly organized by
Collaborative Research Project “Empirical Study of the Typology of
Nominalization—from Theoretical, Fieldwork, Historical and Dialectal
Perspective”, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL),
Tokyo, Japan**

And

**University of Languages and International Studies - Vietnam National University,
Hanoi, Vietnam (ULIS)
Date: 29th December (Thursday), 2022
Venue: Room 509, A1 Building**

Program

8:00 to 8:15: Welcome address by Prof. Lam Quang Dong, ULIS Vice President

8:15 to 8:30: Introduction to the workshop by Prof. Prashant PARDESHI, NINJAL

8:30 to 10:00: Talk 1:

Toward “Dynamic Functional Typology”: Nominalization, gender, and classifiers

Prof. Masayoshi SHIBATANI (Rice University/Kobe University)

Break: 10:00 to 10:30

10:30 to 11:30: Talk 2:

*Classifier and Gender Marking in South Asian (Indic and Dravidian) Languages: A
Nominalization Perspective*

**Prof. Prashant PARDESHI (National Institute for Japanese Language and
Linguistics, Tokyo)**

11:30 to 12:30: Talk 3

Classifiers in Vietnamese: their Role in Nominalization

Prof. Masaaki SHIMIZU (Osaka University)

12:30 to 13:00 Discussions and Closing Remarks by Dr. Trang Phan, ULIS.

ABSTRACTS

TALK 1

Toward “Dynamic Functional Typology”—Nominalization, gender, and classifiers—

Masayoshi SHIBATANI

Rice University/Kobe University/University of Tokyo

While Functional Typology yields certain generalizations about form-function correlations, it, like a (synchronic) descriptive grammar, does not explain how a language ends up displaying such generalizations. By incorporating a diachronic perspective, the diverse marking patterns of grammatical nominalizations in Amami Ryukyuan of Japan are explained in terms of two competing economic motivations; namely, the hearer’s economy motivating innovations toward diversity in form, and the speaker’s economy driving changes toward form uniformity. This dynamicization of functional typology is also useful in understanding crosslinguistic patterns of gender- and classifier-marking, which, we contend, have been mishandled by leading researchers in the field such as Corbett (1991) for the former and Allen (1977) and Aikhenvald (2019) for the latter. In particular, we advance the claim that grammatical genders and (numeral) classifiers nominalize numerals, demonstratives, and other structures and at the same time classify what is being denoted according to the gender- and classifier-classes of the language. In other words, genders and classifiers are specifically classifying types of nominalization, while ordinary nominalizations classify minimally, if at all.

TALK 2

Classifier and Gender Marking in South Asian (Indic and Dravidian) Languages: A Nominalization Perspective

Prashant PARDESHI

National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), Tokyo

In previous studies, classifier, gender marking and relativization are treated as distinct unrelated phenomena. The goal of this talk is to revisit these three adnominal structures and demonstrate that they all can be treated as instances of grammatical nominalizations as claimed by Shibatani (2021). With ample data from South Asian languages (Indic/Indo-Aryan and Dravidian) it would be shown that grammatical genders and (numeral) classifiers nominalize numerals, demonstratives, genitives, and adjectives and at the same time classify what is being denoted.

TALK 3

Classifiers in Vietnamese: their Role in Nominalization

Masaaki Shimizu

Osaka University

This study reviews the previous studies on Vietnamese classifiers (M.B.Emeneau 1951, Nguyen Tai Can 1975, Cao Xuan Hao 1992, Tuong Nguyen 2008, Vu Duc Nghieu 2020, etc.) to see how their status in noun phrases has been analyzed. Among others, Tuong

Nguyen (2008), after categorizing Vietnamese classifiers into three kinds—event-classifiers (e.g., *cái đẹp* [CLF+beautiful] ‘beauty’), unit-classifiers (e.g., *một bài thơ* [one+CLF+poetry] ‘a poem’) and kind-classifiers (e.g., *một thứ quần áo* [one+CLF+pants+shirt] ‘a sort of clothes’)—points out that only event-classifiers can be used in nominalization. This presentation focuses on the function of classifiers in nominalization to see which kind of adnominals (numerals, demonstratives, genitives, adjectives, and relative clauses) they can nominalize. An examination of Vietnamese classifiers in the light of the typological study of nominalization explored by Shibatani (2021) affords an occasion of assessing how the two strains of classifiers research can benefit from each other.