Quantifying Constructions in Diraytata[1]

Wondwosen Tesfaye[2]

Abstract

This paper discusses the linguistic phenomena that implicate quantification in the nominal domain in Diraytata, a member of the Konsoid language sub-group of the Lowland East Cushitic branch spoken in Ethiopia. The data for the present study was collected from Diraashe district during a two months field trip to the area in 2016. The study found that though Diraytata is not a classifier language, it has constituents whose functions are similar to that of classifiers. Count nouns can be directly quantified by numerals and non-count nouns must take classifiers when they are quantified. Moreover, classifiers, in Diraytata, do not take plural marking, they occur immediately following the noun without being mediated by adposition.

Keywords: count noun, mass noun, classifier, quantification, numeration

1. Introduction

Diraytata is a language spoken by the people calling themselves Diraasha and who live in Diraashe district in Segen Area Peoples' Zone within the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Diraasha people are registered in two different names Gidole and Diraashe with a population size 40,045 and 30,123 respectively (CSA, 2007:135[3]).

Diraytata belongs to the Konsoid subgroup of languages within the Lowland East Cushitic group in the Cushitic family of Afro-asiatic phylum. The close relatives of Diraytata are Konso and Mosittacha. Diraytata has three dialects: west, east and south varieties (see Black, 1973). The present study is based on the south variety which is spoken by highlanders who inhibited in and around the township of Gidole. The data for the present study was obtained from 4 language consultants during my two months field trip to Diraashe district in

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[2]PhD, Associate Prof. at the Academy of Ethiopian Languages and Cultures, Addis Ababa University:wond102@yahoo.com

[3]The number of Diraashe people in Wondwosen (2020a) is mistakenly given as 142, 558 and in Wondwosen (2020b) it is also mistakenly written as 71, 230.

2016 to collect data on various aspects of the syntax of the language. The names of consultants were *Terrefe Yohannes* age 50, *Kissalo Dennebe* age 45, *Datiko Kitampo* age 55 and *Kussiya Tolonge* age 55. The techniques used for data collection was elicitation. Through the help of this technique, both structured and unstructured data were drawn from language consultants.

The canonical word order in the language is subject- object-verb (SOV). The language makes morphological distinction between three persons (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and two numbers (singular and plural). The language encodes gender only in the 3rd person singular referents. The verb shows agreement only with the subject noun phrase. A subject NP is case marked when a non-subject constituent is focused whereas the subject NP occurs in its citation form without case when it is focused (for the details see Wondwosen, 2006:53).

There are few sources on Diraytata language. Some of the published works include: Some observation on Dirayta (Gidole) pronouns (Hayward, 1980), Nominal suffixes in Dirayta (Gidole) (Hayward, 1981), NP focus in Somali and Dirayta: a comparison of *baa* and *pa* (Hayward and Saeed, 1984), The Strange Case of the Dirayta Subject Case (Tosco, 1996), Definiteness in Diraytata (Wondwosen, 2007), The Category of Adjectival Elements in Diraytata (Wondwosen, 2010), The Interaction between Case and Focus in Diraytata (Wondwosen, 2014), Orthography of Diraytata in Latin Alphabet Order (Wondwosen, 2015), Comparative Phonology of Konsoid (Wondwosen, 2020a), Revisiting Adjectives in Diraytata (Wondwosen, 2020b). Also, the following seven unpublished works have been done on the language: Sociolinguistic Survey Report of the languages of the Gawwada (Dullay), Dirasha (Gidole) and Muusiye (Bussa) area made by research group called Survey of Little- Known Languages of Ethiopia (S.L.L.E) (Wedikend, 1994). The Phonology of Gidole (Sinkeneh Folla, 1983), The Verb Morphology of Gidole (Hailu Kassaye, 1988), The Syntax of simple sentences in Dirayta (Dawit Tilahun, 2000), The structure of verb complements in Gidole (Wondwosen, 1993) and Aspects of Diraytata Morphology and Syntax: A Lexical- Functional Grammar Approach (Wondwosen, 2006). From the review of literature above, we can learn that there is no work done on quantifying constructions in Diraytata and the present paper is meant to fill this gap. In Diraytata, count nouns can be quantified by numerals whereas non-count nouns must take classifiers when they are quantified.

This paper tries to explore the linguistic device used for quantification. The paper has five sections. In section two, I present terminological and

taxonomical overviews. In section three, I explore how objects are perceived. In section four, quantification of count nouns will be presented. In section five, quantification of mass nouns will be dealt with and this will be followed by concluding remarks.

2. Terminological and Taxonomical Overview

Quantification is a very recent concern in the two broad areas of current research in syntax and semantics. It focuses on the investigation of the structure and interpretation of quantifiers. Quantifiers are linguistic concepts that express quantity in reality. They answer the question of "how much" or "how many" (McEney and Xiao, 2010:1).

Classifiers are part and parcel of a nominal classification system (Aikhenvald, 2000:2, Vittant and Tag, 2020:1). Classifiers are defined in Allan (1977: 285) on the following two criteria: "(a) they occur as morphemes in surface structure under specifiable conditions; (b) they have meaning, in the sense that a classifier denotes some salient perceived or imputed characteristics of entity to which an associated noun refers to (or may refer to)". Lock (1996:50-53) defines classifiers "as words which sub-classify the thing. Classifiers identify a subclass which the thing either is or is not a member of". Fromkin et al. (2003:576) defines classifier as "a grammatical morpheme that marks the semantic class of a noun". Lieber (2004:182) defines classifiers as classifying morphemes. Matthews (2007:58) defines classifier as "a form which marks a noun of a specific semantic class and which has to accompany a numeral".

The term classifier is referred to by different names in the literature of nominal classification typologies and descriptions. For example, in Aikhenvald (2000:30), Dixon (1986:105), Grinevald (2000:61) and Grinevald (2015:811) it is referred to by the name classifiers. In Adams 1989, it is referred to by the names "classifiers, quantifiers", in Liu (1965), it is referred to by the name "company words" and in Hund 1977, it is referred to by the name "projectives" to mention some. However, a detailed consideration of the above resources show that the definitions used are similar but with a different naming.

Lehrer (1986:111), following Allan (1977), enumerates seven types of classifiers in English: unit classifiers, fractional classifiers, number set classifiers, collective classifiers, varietal classifiers, measure classifiers and arrangement classifiers. I adopt these seven types of classifiers in quantifying

Diraytata nouns in a nominal domain. The mass nouns in Diraytata must take a classifier to be quantified. Otherwise, it is not possible to quantify mass nouns in the language.

A typical quantifying construction in Diraytata subsumes (a) count noun + numeral, and (b) mass noun + N2 + numeral, where the second noun (N2) is considered as a classifier (N2 refers to units of measurement for specifying the amount of mass nouns such as *kilo* as in *fukkara kilo halpatt* 'three kilos of sugar'). Count nouns can be directly quantified by numerals (e.g. *ʔinantaɗa halpatt* 'three girls) whereas non-count nouns must take classifiers when they are quantified (e.g. *sookitt kilo lakki* 'three kilos of salt'). Thus, a lexical classifier is mandatory in Diraytata when mass nouns are quantified and it is optional when count nouns are quantified.

3. How Objects are Perceived

Diraytata distinguishes count nouns and mass nouns (non-count) morphologically. The count nouns in turn can be distinguished as singular and plural. They can be subsumed under the following categories: generic, specific and non-specific, collective, definite and indefinite. For example, the nouns *pinant* 'wild animals' and *hooret* 'livestock' are collective nouns as they refer to wild animals and domestic animals in general and they do not refer to a specific species of wild animals and/or domestic animals. Similarly, *hampira* 'birds' and *hiska* 'stars' refer to non-specific birds and stars but when we attach the singulative morpheme *–itt* to them they become *hampiritt* and *hiskitt* that refer to a specific bird and star. Moreover, in Diraytata, indefiniteness is not morphologically marked, as a result a bare noun is considered as indefinite. For example, the word *karm* refers to a lion and such a noun can be made definite by attaching the definitive morpheme *–in(ett*) and *–se(t).* The former marker is attached to nouns in the subject position when the noun is not focused as in *karmotinett* 'the lion' and the later form is used for a subject noun when it is focused as in *karmaset* 'THE LION[4]'.

On the other hand, mass nouns in Diraytata cannot occur directly with numerals, but require classifiers for counting. Regarding the distinction between count nouns and mass nouns, Wisniewski et al (1996: 271) have remarked that, speakers "conceptualize the referents of count nouns as distinct, countable, individuated things and those of mass nouns as non-distinct, uncountable, un-individuated things". From this, we learn that count nouns

[4] The gloss of a focused constituent is written in capital letters.

denote individuals whereas mass nouns do not. Thus, mass nouns cannot be individuated without classifiers. In what follows we shall take up each noun types in some detail.

4. Count Nouns

The quantity of count nouns in Diraytata can be directly quantified by numerals. The count nouns have at least two forms, the singular, which in most cases is semantically associated with one, and the plural which is associated with more than one. Consider the examples in (1).

1 a ʔinant
girl (sg)
'girl'
b ʔinant–adə̀
girl̩- PL
'girls'

Diraytata makes distinction between singular and plural nouns. Thus, the noun *ʔinant* 'girl' is singular in (1a) and *ʔinantadə̀a* 'girls' is plural in (1b).

The typical count noun quantifying construction with number marking in the presence of numerals has a Count noun + Numeral structure. That is, numerals canonically follow the head noun. The following are illustrative examples.

2 a ʔinant ʃokka
girl(sg) one.F
'one girl'
b ʔinant -adə̀a halpatt
girl - PL three
'three girls'
*c ʔinant halpatt
girl (sg) three

In (2a), the singular noun *ʔinant* 'girl' co-occur with the numeral *ʃokka* 'one.F', in (2b) the plural noun *ʔinantadə̀a* 'girls' co-occur with the numeral *halpatt* 'three'. From this, we learn that in Diraytata the numeral more than one such as *halpatt* requires plural nouns with the morpheme *–adə̀a* marking plurality. However, the numeral *halpatt* cannot co-occur with the singular noun *ʔinant*. This can be learned from the ill-formed structure in (2c). From this phenomenon, we can say that the rule for combining numerals with nouns

is that use the numeral *one* with singular nouns and use all other numerals with plural nouns. This is because, morphologically singular nouns are semantically singular and morphologically plural nouns are semantically plural in Diraytata. Similar cases can be observed in English (see Scontras 2014:16). In English, the numeral *one* goes with *book* as in *one book* and the numeral *three* goes with *books* as in *three books* and hence in both Diraytata and English the numerals play a significant role in determining the number morphology of a noun with which it occurs. Thus, *one book* in English contrasts with *three books* just like *ʔinant ʃokka* 'one girl' contrasts with *ʔinantaɗa halpatt* 'three girls'.

Regarding cross- linguistic variation in patterns of number marking Scontras (2010: 27), quoting Bale et al (2011), and Farkas and de Stwart (2010), states that in Turkish and Hungarian all numerals combine with singular marked nouns such as *one book*, *two book* etc., whereas in Western Armenian numerals optionally combine with either singular or plural marked nouns such as *one*/*two book(s)*.

5. Mass Nouns (non-count nouns)

The mass nouns in Diraytata must take a classifier to be quantified. There are seven types of classifiers used to quantify mass nouns in Diraytata. They are: measure classifiers, unit classifiers, collective classifiers, arrangement classifiers, variety classifier, fractional classifiers and number set classifiers. In what follows we shall take up each in turn.

5.1 Measure Classifiers

Measure classifiers, in Diraytata, are used to measure the amount of mass nouns. In other words, they are used as unit of measurement for specifying the amount of mass nouns. Allan (1977) divides measure classifiers into two: fixed measure and irregular measure. Similarly, Lehrer (1986) used the alternative terms: exact and inexact measures. I adopt the alternative terminology of Lehrer (1986): exact and inexact measures in this paper. In what follows we shall consider exact measures first.

5.1.1 Exact Measures

The exact measures are the standard units used in measuring different kinds of things such as weight, volume, length, area and capacity. The following are examples with such measures.

3 a *sookitt* *kilo* *lakkuʃet*
salt kilo eight
'eight kilos of salt'
b *ruuset* *kilo* *lakki*
rice kilo two
'two kilos of rice'
c *ʃukkara* *kilo* *halpatt*
sugar kilo three
'three kilos of sugar'

In (3), *kilo* is the standard measurement unit for measuring weight such as *sookitt* 'salt', *ruuset* 'rice' and *ʃukkara* 'sugar'. Similarly, liquid substance can be measured by standard unit of measurement, liter. This is shown in (4).

4 a *sajtet* *litere* *ʃokko*
oil liter one
' a liter of oil'
b *kaaset* *litere* *hen*
gasoline liter five
'five liters of gasoline'

In (4), *liter* function as standard unit to measure the amount of liquid substances such as *sajtet* 'oil' and *kaaset* 'gasoline'. Likewise, meter, hectare and kilometer are used to measure length as exemplified in (5).

5 a *ul* *hektara* *afur*
land hectare four
'four hectares of land'
b *paana* *kilometra* *hunɗ*
road kilometer ten
'ten kilometers of road'
c *wotora* *metra* *tammo*
rope meter hundred
'hundred meters of rope'

Under (5), meter, hectare and kilometer are standard measuring units to specify the amount of length of objects. In (5a) *ul* 'land' is measured by hectare, in (5b) *paana* 'road' is measured by kilometer and in (5c), *wotora* 'rope' is measured by meter. Regarding exact measures Allan (1977:104) remarked that in English the set of exact measure is limited, whereas the set of

inexact measures are unlimited. Similar, cases have been observed in Diraytata. That is to say, the set of exact measures in Diraytata are limited as compared to the set of inexact measures that are limitless.

5.1.2 Inexact Measures

Unlike the exact measures that are regular measuring units of objects and substances, the inexact measures are irregular units of measurement to specify the amount of objects and substances.

6 a *parra* *kaɗɗot*[5] *lakki*
barley sack two
'two sacks of barley'
b *unt* *k'unna*[6] afur
millet basket four
'four baskets of millet'
c *ɓak'k'ulla* *tawillet*[7] *hen*
corn bag five
'five quintals of corn'
d *unt* *tʃ'aatʃ'a*[8] *leeh*
millet basket six
'six baskets of millet heads'

Under (6), *porra* 'barley', *unt* 'millet', *ɓak'k'ulla* 'corn' are mass nouns that can be measured by *kaɗɗot* 'sack', *k'unna* 'basket' and *tawillet* 'bag' respectively. Moreover, the heads of millet can be measured by the container *tʃ'aatʃ'a* 'basket'

Now let us consider the way how the amounts of liquid substances are measured by means of inexact measures.

7 a *hak'at* *ʃeelɗa*[9] hen
water pot five
'five pots of water'

[5]*kaɗɗot* is a sack made of rough pelt used to measure grain.
[6]*k'unna* is a wide bamboo basket for measuring millet
[7]*tawillet* is a large bag of strong material for storing and carrying heavy goods.
[8]*tʃ'aatʃ'a* is a large basket for carrying millet heads at harvest
[9]*ʃeelɗa* is a type of pot used to carry water

b *aannaa* *ɗant* *lakki*
milk calabash two
'two calabashes of milk'

c *punitt* *sinet*[10] *leeh*
coffee small cup six
'six small cups of coffee'

d *ʃaajet* *kuppajja* *halpatt*
tea mug three
'three mugs of tea'

e *t'atʃet* *pirillet*[11] *tapp*
mead carafe seven
'seven carafes of mead'

f *parʃot*[12] *hompotʃ'a*[13] *afur*
beer gourd four
'four gourds of beer'

In (7) , the NPs *ʃeelɗa hen* 'five pots', *ɗant lakki* 'two calabashes', *sinet leeh* 'six small cups', *kuppajja halpatt* 'three mugs', *pirillet tapp* 'seven carafes' and *hompotʃ'a afur* 'four gourds' are measure classifiers. They constitute the container nouns that are commonly used for the purpose of measuring liquid substances. These container nouns are: *ʃeelɗa* 'pot', *ɗant* 'calabash', *sinet* 'small cup', *kuppajja* 'mug', *pirillet* 'carafe' and *hompotʃ'a* 'gourd' and the numerals : *hen* 'five', *lakki* 'two', *leeh* 'six', *halpatt* 'three', *tapp* 'seven' and *afur* 'four' which together function as a unit to specify the amount of liquid substance denoted by the head nouns*:* *hak'at* 'water', *aannaa* 'milk', *punitt* 'coffee'*,* *ʃaajet* 'tea', *t'atʃet* 'mead', and *parʃot* 'beer' respectively. Moreover, the classifiers (containers): *ʃeelɗa* 'pot', *ɗant* 'calabash', *sinet* 'small cup', *kuppajja* 'mug', *pirillet* 'carafe' and *hompotʃ'a* 'gourd' can be conceived as a conventionally established unit of measurement. However, the examples presented below show a classifier may not be obligatory in Diraytata.

8 a *punitt* *leeh*
coffee six
'six coffee'

[10]*sinet* is a small cup used for drinking coffee
[11]*pirillet* is a flat bottomed jar made of glass used to drink mead.
[12]*parʃot* is a locally brewed beer
[13]*hompotʃ'a* is a drinking vessel made of gourd

b *ʃaajet* *halpatt*
tea three
'three tea'

c *t'atʃet* *tapp*
mead seven
'seven mead'

d *parʃot* *afur*
beer four
'four beer'

The mass nouns *punitt* 'coffee', *ʃaajet* 'tea', *t'atʃet* 'mead' and *parʃot 'beer'* in (8) occur freely as count nouns without a container classifier. This is possible in Diraytata simply because the container classifiers are implicit from the pragmatic situation. For example, coffee is served by using the container *sinet* 'small cup' and if one says three coffees, it is implicit from the context to mean that three cups of coffee. However, this is not possible in the case of examples (7a, b) as shown in (9) below.

9 *a *hak'at* *hen*
water five

*b *aannaa* *lakki*
milk two

The examples in (9) are ill-formed. This is because the mass nouns *hak'at* 'water' and *aannaa* 'milk' cannot occur without a container classifier as there are different sizes of *ʃeelɗa* 'pot' and *ɗant* 'calabash' and hence they are not implicit classifiers that can be determined by the pragmatic situation.

Length can also be measured by conventionally established measuring units such as *waaɗɗa* 'forearm', and *ik'aʃʃet* 'step' as the examples in (10) illustrate.

10 a *haalp* *waaɗɗa*[14] *hen*
garment forearm five
'five forearms garment'

b *wotora* *ik'aʃʃet* *hunɗ*
rope step five
Literally 'five steps of rope'
'five steps length of rope'

[14] *Wooɗɗa* is a garment made of cotton for wearing. It is called *bulluko* in Amharic.

Moreover, the means of transport used for carrying objects can be used to measure the amount of objects as the following examples illustrate.

11 a *ʃahatt* *makinet* *lakki*
sand lorry two
'two lorry-loads of sand'
b *k'ojra* *harret* *halpatt*
wood donkey-load three
'three donkey-loads of wood'

The amount of an object or substance can be measured by means of *kootara* 'barn'. This is shown in the following examples.

12 a *unt* *kootara* *afur*
millet barn four
'four barns of millet'
b *ɓak'k'ulla* *kootara* *tapp*
corn barn seven
'seven barns of corn'

5.2 Unit Classifiers

The unit classifiers itemize individual members from undifferentiated mass for quantification. The following are illustrative examples.

13 a *punitt* *eeɗama* *halpatt*
coffee bean piece three
'three individual pieces of coffee beans'
b *haakala* *eeɗama* *lakki*
cabbage piece two
'two individual pieces of cabbages'
c *tinitʃtʃa* *eeɗama* *hen*
potato piece five
'five individual pieces of potatoes'

In (13), the constituents *eeɗama halpatt* 'three individual pieces', *eeɗama lakki* 'two individual pieces' and *eeɗama hen* ' five individual pieces' are unit classifier phrases that constitutes the head noun *eeɗama* 'individual piece', followed by the numerals *halpatt* 'three', *lakki* 'two' and *hen* 'five' respectively. The unit classifier phrases occur following the head noun of the main noun phrases.

The head nouns of the main noun phrases above are *punitt* ‘coffee’ in (13a), *haakala* ‘cabbage’ in (13b) and *tinitʃtʃa* ‘potato’ in (13c). They are all collective nouns that denote mass of individuated pieces. For example, when we talk of *punitt eeɗama halpatt* ‘three pieces of coffee beans’ we are speaking not of a unit, but only a portion. In other words, the unit classifier head noun *eeɗama* ‘piece’ occurs with the nouns *punitt* ‘coffee bean’, *haakala* ‘cabbage’ and *tinitʃtʃa* ‘potato’ to limit the mass of the individual pieces comprising it. Thus, the unit classifier noun *eeɗama* refers to part, not whole of the mass noun.

Besides, the unit classifier *maʃʃ* ‘head’ is used to individuate undifferentiated mass in Diraytata. The following is illustrative example.

14 *tuumat* *maʃʃ* *afur*
onion head four
‘four heads of onion’

The head of the main noun phrase is the collective noun *tuumat* ‘onion’. This noun denotes mass of individuated heads of onion. The unit classifier noun *maʃʃ* ‘head’ is followed by the numeral *afur* ‘four’ in (14) to restrict the reference of the head noun *tuumat* ‘onion’ to the individual pieces comprising it.

Before closing the topic of unit classifiers, it is worth to consider the examples in (15).

15 a *ɓok’k’olla* *eeɗama* *hunɗ*
corn ear ten
‘ten ears of corn’
b *ɓok’k’olla* *maʃʃ* *lakkuʃet*
corn head eight
‘eight heads of corn’
c *ɓok’k’olla* *lukket* *leeh*
corn leg six
Literally ‘six legs of corn’
‘six individual corn plants’

Under (15), *ɓok’k’olla* ‘corn’ is the head of the main noun phrases. It denotes the mass of individuated pieces. The unit classifier phrase in each case constitutes a head noun and a numeral. The numerals occur following the head noun. For example, the unit classifier noun *eeɗama* ‘piece’ in (15a) is used to

individuate the grains of corn regardless of the constituents of the mass 'corn'. The unit classifier noun *maʃʃ* 'head' in (15b) is used to identify a single corncob of the corn. Similarly, the unit classifier head noun *lukket* 'leg' is used to refer to the individual plant of corn. Thus, the unit classifier head nouns *eeɗama* 'piece', *maʃʃ* 'head' and *lukket* 'leg' limit the reference of the head noun *ɓok'k'olla* 'corn' to the individual pieces comprising it.

However, neither the numerals nor the unit classifier head nouns occur alone with the main noun phrase head noun as the examples in (16) illustrate.

16 *a *ɓok'k'olla* *eeɗamam*
corn piece
*b *ɓok'k'olla* *lakkuʃet*
corn eight

The examples in (16) are all ungrammatical. The reason for the ungrammaticality of (16a) is the numeral *hunɗ* 'ten' is missing. Similarly, the ungrammaticality of (16b) can be accounted for in terms of lack of the unit classifier *maʃʃ* 'head'. This situation clearly shows that neither the numeral nor the unit classifier head alone serve as a classifier of the collective noun *ɓok'k'olla* 'corn'. This situation shows that the classifier phrase function in combination with a unit classifier noun and a numeral together but not separately. Thus, the unit classifier noun and the numeral are obligatory constituents of a unit classifier phrase.

5.3 Collective Classifiers

The collective classifiers refer to a number of individuals in group. Biber et al (1999:250) remark that the collective classifiers bring single entities together so as to provide a collective reference for separate entities. The following are illustrative examples.

17 a *muuset* *haarra*
banana bunch
' a bunch of banana'
b *horet* *tikk*
animals group
'a group of animals'

In (17a), *haarra* 'bunch' refers to plurality of bananas which are tightly tied together; in (17b) *tikk* refers to *animals* in group.

5.4 Variety Classifiers

The variety classifier refers to the number of types of objects or things denoted by the noun. Consider the examples below.

18 a hampira kosa lakki
bird type two
'two types of birds'
b k'ojra kosa hen
tree type five
'five types of trees'
c maaka kosa afur
snake type four
'four types of snakes'

In (18), the variety classifier phrases *kosa lakki* 'two types', *kosa ken* 'five types' and *kosa afur* 'four types' occur following the main head nouns *hampira* 'bird', *k'ojra* 'tree' and *maaka* 'snake'. The variety classifier phrases constitutes the head noun *kosa* 'type' followed by the numerals *lakki* 'two', *hen* 'five' and *afur* 'four' and these function as the number of types of objects or things denoted by the main head nouns. For example, in (18a), *hamira kosa lakki* refers to two bird types, in (18b) *k'ojra kosa hen* refers to five tree types and in (18c) *maaka kosa afur* refers to four snake types.

5.5 Arrangement Classifiers

Arrangement classifiers in Diraytata show how entities in a group are ordered. In (19) the arrangement classifier *tarka* 'row' refers to the group of *unt* 'sorghum' and *ɓuk'k'ulla* 'corn' planted in a straight line or row.

19 a *unt* *tarka*
sorghum row
'sorghum planted in a row'
b *ɓuk'k'ulla* *tarka*
corn row
'corn planted in a row'

From the above examples we can learn that arrangement classifier focuses on the constellation of the group of *unt* 'sorghum' and *ɓuk'k'ulla* 'corn'. Similarly, the arrangement classifiers *toora* and *tuula* are used to refer to piled up sorghum and/or corn in a row as the following examples illustrate.

20 a *unt* *toora* *hen*
sorghum pile five
'five piles of sorghum'
b *ɓuk'k'ulla* *tuul* *afur*
corn pile four
'four piles of corn'

In (20), *toora* refers to a pile of sorghum whereas *tuula* refers to a pile of grains other than sorghum such as corn, barley, etc., However, both *toora* and *tuula* refer to a piled up of dry indehiscent grains ordered in a row.

5.6 Fractional Classifiers

Fractional classifiers individuate parts of a whole as the following examples illustrate:

21 a *tappot* *rupi*[15]
bread quarter
' a quarter of bread'
b *tappot* *kimaʃa*
bread half
'a half of bread'
c *tappot* *k'uraʃet*
bread piece
'a piece of bread'

In (21), *rupi* 'quarter', *kimaʃa* 'half' and *k'uraʃet* 'piece' are fractional classifiers which refers to different pieces of a bread. That is, *tappot rupi* in (21) refers to a quarter of the whole bread, *tappot kimaʃa* refers to a half of bread and *tappot k'uraʃet* refers to a piece of bread. These examples show a portion of bread.

5.7 Number Set Classifiers

The number set classifier refers to a large number of something as the following examples illustrate.

22 a *orr* *loha*
people dozen
'a dozen of people'

[15]*rupi*, *kimaʃa* and *k'uraʃet* are borrowings from Amharic (the Amharic equivalent of such terms are rub, gemaʃ and k'uraʃ respectively)

b *horet* *loha*
animals dozen
'a dozen of animals'

loha here refers to a vague large number of something. Thus, in (22a) *loha* is used to refer to a very large number of people and in (22b) *loha* refers to a very large number of domestic animals.

Conclusion

In this paper, an attempt has been made to discuss about quantifying constructions in Diraytata nominal domain. In the course of the discussion, I have shown that though Diraytata is not a classifier language, it has words which are functionally similar to classifiers. Diraytata distinguishes count nouns and mass nouns (non-count) morphologically. The count nouns in turn can be distinguished as singular and plural nouns. They can be subsumed as generic, specific and non-specific, collective, definite and indefinite. On the other hand, mass nouns in Diraytata cannot occur directly with numerals, but require classifiers for counting.

In the language, the amount of weight is measured by the exact measure unit *kilo* 'kilo' and by the inexact measure units *kaɗɗot* 'sack', *k'unna* 'basket', *tawillet* 'bag' and *tʃ'aatʃa* 'basket'. Likewise, volume is measured by the exact measure unit *litere* 'liter' and by the inexact measure units *ʃeelɗa* 'pot', *ɗant* 'calabash', *sinet* 'small cup', *kuppajja* 'mug', *pirillet* 'carafe' and *hompotʃ'a* 'gourd'. By the same token, length is measured by the exact measure units *hektara* 'hectare', *kilometra* 'kilometer' and *metra* 'meter', and by inexact measure units *waaɗa* 'forearm' and *ik'aʃʃet* 'step'. Similarly, the unit classifiers *eeɗama* 'piece' and *maʃʃ* 'head' are used to individuate undifferentiated mass. The collective classifiers such as *haarra* 'bunch' and *tikk* 'group' used to refer to a number of individuals in group. The variety classifier *kosa* 'type' refers to the number of type of objects or things denoted by the noun. The arrangement classifier *tarka* 'row' refers to how entities in a group are ordered. The fractional classifiers *rupi* 'quarter', *kimaʃa* 'half' and *k'uraʃet* 'piece' refer to individuate parts of a whole. The number set classifier *loha* 'dozen' refers to vague large number of something. In general, classifiers, in Diraytata, do not take plural marking, they occur immediately following the noun without being mediated by adposition.

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