Concurrent functions of Hawyiengz Zhuang classifiers

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Abstract

Unlike those of other languages, the classifiers of Hawyiengz Zhuang can act as a subject pronoun, an object pronoun, a predicate, an attribute, an adverbial or a complement alone and communicate new meanings of both words and grammar in certain sentences. This concurrent functions of the classifiers of Hawyiengz Zhuang are confined to give conditions when they act as a subject pronoun, a predicate or an object pronoun alone. And they indicate the shape of the thing when they act as the attribute. And those that can act as adverbials and complements are mainly the classifiers for actions.

In most languages, classifiers are syntactically used with numbers to enumerate nouns. Hawyiengz Zhuang (Zhuang vernacular of Hawyiengz village, Mashan county, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region) classifiers are not simply syntactic units but they can function as a pronoun by substituting nouns already mentioned and as a modifier for nouns and verbs, that is to say, they can concurrently take on all six constituents of the sentences (including subject, predicate, object, attribute, adverbial and complement) alone. In these cases, Hawyiengz Zhuang classifiers carry content and communicate meaning.

The concurrent function of a Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier is confined to given conditions. The aim of this paper is to reveal what constituent of the sentence the classifier acts as alone and what new meanings it produces in certain conditions.

1. Classifier as a subject pronoun

The classifier that can act as the subject alone appears in the second or the last clause and acts for the related noun or pronoun in the first clause or the foregoing paragraphs, which is limited to given conditions and rules that can cause the classifiers to change their meanings. The given conditions and rules shown as follows:

1.1 Clause1+Clause2 (SUBJ.PRO: CLF+Predicate: CLF)

(1) tau^2 ki^3 ma:k^7 te^1 tau^3 fan^1 hau^3 kjoŋ^5
   Take these fruit that come handout give group

vun^2 nei^4, pou^4 an^1
People this each cl. one cl.
Hand out that fruit, one for each, to these persons.
('＿＿' indicates 'subject' and '＿＿' 'predicate')

On condition that the classifier **an^1** for nonliving matter assumes the predicate alone (see it in the last clause), the classifier **pou^4** for people acts for the noun **vun^2** (person) in the first clause and serves as the subject in the last clause. In Hawyiengz Zhuang, a sentence like this can be divided into two clauses, and **pou^4 an^1** is not a part of the first clause but an independent unit that gives further explanation to the first clause. And it means that each person is given one of the fruits. It is an idiomatic expression and there is not anything omitted between **pou^4** and **an^1** (the same below). CLF+Predicate:CLF, CLF+Predicate:NUM+CLF, CLF+Predicate:ADJ, or CLF+Predicate:INTERPRO can become a sentence or clause, which is a characteristic of Hawyiengz Zhuang grammar.

(2) tau^2 ki^3 ɳ,ɯ^3 nei^4 pai^1 tɯk^7 vai^2, tu^2 kam^1.
   Take these grass this to put buffalo each cl. bunch cl.
Feed this grass, one bunch of it for each, to the buffaloes.

On condition that the classifier **kam^1** for a branch of things assumes the predicate alone (see it in the last clause), the classifier **tu^2** for animal acts for the noun **va:i^2** (buffalo) in the last clause.

(3) muŋ^2 pai^1 rɯ:t^8 pjak^7, ko^1 va:t^8
   you go water vegetable each cl. ladle cl.
You go to water the vegetables, one ladle of water for each vegetable.

On condition that the classifier **va:t^8** for liquids, grains or powders assumes the predicate alone (see it in the last clause), the classifier **ko$_1$** for plant acts for each of the nouns **pjak^7** (vegetables) in the first clause and serves as the subject in the last clause.

All the classifiers assuming the subjects alone indicate 'each', and the ones assuming the predicates alone indicate 'one', in the last clauses mentioned above. The construction 'subject acted by single classifier+predicate acted by single classifier' may overlap for the emphasis on the meaning 'each'. e.g. the last clause in the example 1 may be changed into the repeated form '**pou^4 an^1 pou^4 an^1**' (one fruit for each person); the one in the example 2 may be also be changed into the overlapped form '**tu^3 kam^1 tu^2 kam^1**' (a bunch of grass for each buffalo), and so on.

1.2 Clause1+Clause2 (SUBJ.PRO :CLF+Predicate: NUM+CLF)

(1) pi[1] kva[5] rau[2] dam[1] paːk[7]   mou[4] na[2], <u>mou[4]</u>   ɕiːn[1]kan[1]
last year we   plant hundred cl.   field each cl. thousand cl.
We planted one hundred **mou[4]** of rice and reaped one thousand
kan[1] of grains from each **mou[4]** of field last year.

On condition that the construction 'cl.+numeral (nu.)' **ɕiːn[1] kan[1]**
(one thousand **kan[1]**) assumes the predicate (see it in the last clause), the
classifier **mou[4]**, a unit of area (=0.0667 hectares), acts for the noun **'na[2]'**
(field) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

(2) kou[1] soŋ[5] ki[3]   pit[3]   nei[4] haɯ[3] sou[1], <u>pou[4]</u>   saːm[1] tu[2]
I   send these duck this give you   each cl. three cl.
I give you these ducks, three for each person.

On condition that the construction 'cl.+nu.' **saːm[1] tu[2]** (three ducks)
assumes the predicate, in the last clause, the classifier **pou[4]** acts for the
pronoun **sou[1]** (you) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

(3) kou[1] kjai[2] kɯn[1] ki[3]   maːk[7] nei[4], <u>kam[2]</u>   <u>soːŋ[1]an[1]</u>
I   like eat   these fruit this each cl. two cl.
I like eating these fruits and can have two in one mouthful.

On condition that the form 'cl.+nu.' **soːŋ[1] an[1]** (two fruits) assumes
the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **kam[2]** (one mouthful) acts for the
unit of the action **kɯn[1]** (eat) in the first clause and as the subject in the last
clause.

In the last clause mentioned above, only the classifiers assuming the
subject alone indicate 'each', and the ones in the form 'nu.+cl.' not, because
they are modified by numerals.

1.3 Clause1+Clause2 (SUBJ.PRO: CLF+Predicate: V)

(1) pou[4] heːk[7] deu[1] jou[5] paːk[7]tou[1] ɕau[5] ta[4]me[6]
cl.   guest one   at   door   with mother

kaːŋ[3] va[6],   jap[7]   he <u>pou[4]</u> ɕou[6]   teu[2] lo.
talk language moment a   cl.   rightafter leave mood
A guest left right after he talked with my mother at the door for a
moment.

On condition that the verb **teu[2]** (leave) assumes the predicate in the
last clause, the classifier **pou[4]** acts for the noun **heːk[7]** (guest) in the first clause
and as the subject in the last clause.

(2) tu^3 ma^1 laŋ^1 ta^{4}luŋ^2 çan^1 jaːk^7, tu^2 ŋon^{2}luːn^2 hap^8
cl. dog family uncle   very fierce cl. yesterday   bite

tu^2 kai^5 kou^1 taːi^1 lo.
cl. chicken I   die   mood
The dog of my uncle is so fierce that it bit my chicken to death yesterday.

On condition that the verb **hap^8** (bite) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **tu^2** acts for the noun **ma^1** (dog) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

(3) paːi^{6}laŋ^1 raːn^2 kou^1 mi^2 ko^1 fai^4 deu^1 çan^1
back   house I   have cl. tree one   very

kei^{2}hei^6, ko^1 ro^4 tok^7 ram^{5}ta^1
strange cl. can   drop tear
There is a strange tree that can tear at the back of my house.

On condition that the verb **ro^4 tok^7** (can drop) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **ko^1** acts for the noun **fai^4** (tree) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

In interim summary, on condition that the verb acts as the predicate in the last clause, the classifiers assuming the subjects mentioned above cannot indicate 'each' but act for only the noun itself in the first clause.

1.4 Clause1+Clause2 (SUBJ.PRO: CLF+Predicate: ADJ)

(1) te^1 hauɯ^3 kou^1 an^1 maːk^7 deu^1, <u>an^1</u> som^3 lak^{7}taːi^1.
he give I   cl. fruit one   cl. sour very
He gave me a fruit that was very sour.

On condition that the adjective **som^3** (sour) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **an^1** (without the meaning 'each') acts for the noun **maːk^7** (fruit) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

(2) pi^1 kjaːi^1 kou^1 jou^5 hen^2 raːn^2 dam^1 ko^1
the year before last I   at side house plant cl.

luɯk^{8}man^3 deu^1, pan^1 nei^4 <u>ko^1</u> li^3 tam^5 tet tet.
plum   one now   cl. still short very
I planted a plum tree by the house the year before last and now it is still short.

On condition that the adjective **tam^5 tet tet** (very short) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **ko^1** (without the meaning 'each') acts for the noun **luɯk^{8}man^3** (plum) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

tu² mou¹ nei⁴ kou¹ ŋaːm⁵ çiːŋ⁴ dai³ toːn⁶ pi¹,
cl. pig   this I   just   raise can half year

pan¹nei⁴ <u>tu²</u> <u>pi²</u> lak⁷taːi¹.
now   cl.   fat   very
The pig has been raised by me for only half a year, but it has gotten very fat now.

On condition that the adjective **pi²** (fat) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **tu²** (without the meaning 'each') acts for the noun **mou¹** (pig) in the first clause and as the subjective in the last clause.

1.5 Clause1+Clause2 (SUBJ.PRO: CLF+Predicate: INTER PRO)

(1) kou¹ tiŋ⁵ vun² kaːŋ³, muɯŋ² ŋon²luːn² çaɯ⁴
    I   hear people tell   you   yesterday buy

tu² meu² deu, <u>tu²</u> <u>pan²laɯ² jiːŋ⁶</u> ha?
cl. cat one   cl.   how   mood
I heard that you got a cat yesterday. How is it now?

On condition that the interrogative pronoun **pan²laɯ²jiːŋ⁶** (how) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **tu²** (without the meaning 'each') acts for the noun **meu²** (cat) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause.

(2) muɯŋ² pi¹pi¹   dam¹ fai⁴, <u>ko¹</u> <u>pan²laɯ²</u> ha?
    you   every year plant tree   cl.   how
You plant trees every year. How are they now?

On condition that the interrogative pronoun **pan²laɯ²** (how) assumes the predicate in the last clause, the classifier **ko¹** (without the meaning 'each') acts for the noun **fai⁴** (tree) in the first clause and as the subject in the last clause. There is a point for attention here: a noun or noun phrase can act as a predicate in many sentences but cannot in one in which a classifier acts as a subject pronoun in Hawyiengz Zhuang. Thus it can be seen that no predicate can appear in the clause in which the classifier acts as a subject. So, the predicate is one of the conditioning constituents for the classifier to act as the subject.

To sum up, the classifier assuming subjective alone has a substitutionary function and can appear in various clauses (the last ones). It includes the meaning 'each' when it acts as a subject in the last clause whose predicate is assumed by a single classifier or the form 'nu.+cl.'. But it loses the meaning 'each' and acts for only the noun in the first clause when it acts as a subject in the last clause whose predicate is assumed by verb, adjective or interrogative pronoun. Besides, the classifier assuming predicate alone also includes the meaning 'each', and the construction 'cl. (subject)+cl. (predicate)' can overlap for emphasis on the meaning 'each'.

The classifier can act as a subject alone, and so can the construction 'cl.+modifier'. e.g.:

(1) $\underline{tu}^2$ (pa:i^{6}kɯn^2) la:i^1 pi^2.
     cl.   up   more fat
     The one (some animal) above is fatter.
     ('( )' indicates the modifier)

(2) $\underline{ko}^1$ (mɯŋ^2)   jou^5 pa:i^{6}te^1.
     cl.   you   at   overthere
     Your one (some plant) is over there.

2.   Classifier as an object pronoun

Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier can act as an object only on condition that the predicate in the last clause is assumed by an transitive verb. The classifiers assuming objects can be divided into two types: substitutionary one and non-substitutionary ones, according to different properties of the verbs assuming predicates.

A Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier can serve as almost every type of object, that is, objective one, agent one, neuter one, direct one and indirect one, of which the first is the most common.

2.1 Objective

(1) kou^1 çaɯ^4 dai^3 so:ŋ^1 an^1 lɯk^{8}lei^2, haɯ^3 mɯŋ^2 $\underline{an}^1$
     I   buy   gain   two   cl.   pear   give   you   one cl.
     I have bought two pears. I'll give you one.
     (indicates object)

In the last clause, **haɯ^3** (give) is a transitive verb, and **mɯŋ^2** (you) an indirect object, and the classifier **an^1** (one) a direct one (objective one) which acts for one of two pears (**so:ŋ^1 an^1 lɯk^{8}lei^2**) in the first clause.

(2) nei^4 lij   mi^2 kei^3 tu^2 pit^7, kou^1 $\underline{au}^1$ $\underline{tu}^2$.
     here   still have   a few   cl.   duck   I   want one cl.
     A few ducks are left here and I want one.

In the last clause, **au^1** (want) is a transitive verb, and the classifier **tu^2** an object (objective one) which acts for one of a few ducks (kei^3 tu^2 pit^7) in the first clause.

(3) mɯŋ^2 çi:m^2 ki^3 oi^3 nei^4 hɯn^3 tau^3,
     you   pull up these sugarcane this   up,

     kou^1 kɯn^1 $\underline{ko}^1$.
     I   eat   one cl.
     Please, pull up this sugarcane because I want to eat some.

In the last clause, **kɯn¹** (eat) is a transitive verb, and the classifier **ko¹** serves as an object (objective one) which acts for one of sugarcanes (ki³ oi³) in the first clause.

In interim summary, the classifiers assuming the objects in the sentences mentioned above not only act for the nouns related in the first clauses but also produce the meaning 'one'. But the classifiers assuming the objects below the examples don't have the meaning 'one' and only act for the nouns related:

(1) mɯŋ² taɯ² tu² ma¹ te¹ tau³ haɯ³ kou¹, kou¹
     you   take cl. dog that come give I   I

ɕaɯ⁴ tu².
buy   it cl.
Bring that dog to me and I want to buy it.

In the last clause of the example above, **ɕaɯ⁴** (buy) is a transitive verb, and the classifier without the meaning 'one' (analogous to 'it' here) that serves as an object only acts for **tu² ma¹ te¹** (that dog) in the first clause.

(2) ta⁶ lɯk⁸   mɯŋ² ŋon² nei⁴ bou³ pai¹ haːk⁸, mɯŋ² nau²
     cl. daughter you   day   this not   go   school   you   scold

ta⁶ ⟨baːt⁷ deu¹⟩
her cl. once
Your daughter didn't go to school today and you should give her a scolding.
(⟨ ⟩ indicates a complement)

In the last clause of example 2, **nau²** (scold) is a transitive verb, and the classifier without the meaning 'one' **ta⁶** (for young girl and analogous to 'her' here) that serves as an object only acts for **ta⁶ lɯk⁸ mɯŋ²** (your daughter) in the first clause.

There is a line of distinction on the basis of the substitution in number between the classifier assuming objects, with 'one' and the ones without 'one': when the substitution are used in plural, the classifiers assuming objects have the meaning 'one', e.g. the examples 1; and when in singular, not, e.g. the examples 2.

2.2 Agent object (the doer of action as a object in a sentence)

(1) tiŋ⁵   taŋ² tok⁷laŋ¹, mi² ti¹ hak⁸seːŋ¹ teu² lo,   an¹
     listen to later   some student   leave each (cl.)

keu⁵si² teu² pou⁴.
classroom leave one cl.
When the classes were drawing to an end, some students, one from each classroom, slipped away.

In the last clause of the example 1, the predicate **teu²** (leave) belongs to the action of the person marked by the classifier **pou⁴** following **teu²**, so **pou⁴** is the agent object of **teu²** and acts for one of the students (mi² ti¹ haːk⁸seːŋ¹) in the first clause and includes the meaning 'one'.

(2) heu⁶ ki³   kaŋ¹   nei⁴ pai¹ naŋ⁶, an¹   taŋ⁵ naŋ⁶ tu².
    ask   these monkey this go   sit   one cl. stool sit one cl.
    Order these monkeys, one for each stool, to sit down.

In the last clause of the example 2, the predicate **naŋ⁶** (sit) belongs to the action of the animal marked by the classifier **tu²** following **naŋ⁶**, so **tu²** is the agent object of **naŋ⁶** and acts for one of monkeys (ki³ kaŋ¹) in the first clause and includes the meaning 'one' .

2.3 Neuter object (the objects except the agent object and objective one)

(1) raːn²   muŋ²   mi²   pit⁷haːi³,   raːn²   kou¹ caːm⁶
    family   you   have   western duck family   I   also

mi²   tu²
have   one cl.
Your family has western ducks and mine has one, too.

In the last clause of the example 1, the predicate **mi²** (have) is a verb that indicates 'existence' and so can be followed by the neuter object. The classifier with the meaning 'one' **tu²** acts as the neuter object of **pit⁷haːi³** and it does not act for one of concrete western-ducks but for one of the same category.

When the classifier assuming the neuter object follows the predicate assumed by the verb **pan²** (become), it acts for nothing and does not include the meaning 'one' but indicates the integrity of something. e.g.:

(2) tu² pja¹   te¹ çaɯ³ nei⁴ pan²   tu²   ho.
    cl. fish   he cook this become full cl.   mood
    The fish he cooked kept the complete one.

In this sentence, the classifier **tu²** is the object of the predicate **pan²** and shows the integrity of the cooked fish.

(3) ki³   fai⁴ luɯk⁸   nei⁴ bou³ pan²   ko¹ kva⁵.
    these tree seeding this not become cl. already
    These tree seedlings have not been the complete ones.

In this sentence, the classifier **ko¹** is the object of the predicate **pan²** and shows the integrity of each tree seedling.

2.4 Indirect and direct object

> I.   As the indirect one

(1) tu^2 mou^1 kɯn^1 bou^3 im^5,   haɯ^3 tu^2 paːt^7 moːk^7
cl. pig   eat   not   enough give   it cl. basin cl. hogwash

deu^1 tem^1
one   again
The pig is not full. Give another basin of hogwash to it.

In this sentence, the classifier **tu^2** serves as an indirect object for the predicate **haɯ^3** (give) in the last clause and acts for the noun **mou^1** (pig) in the first clause.

(2) laŋ^6 ta^{6}nuːŋ^4 pai^1 haːk^8, kou^1 soŋ^5 ta^6 kon^3 pit^7 deu^1
if   sister   go   school I   give her cl.   pen   one
If my younger sister goes to school, I will give her a pen.

In this sentence, the classifier **ta^6** serves as an indirect object for the predicate **soŋ^5** (give) in the last clause and acts for the noun **nuːŋ^4** (younger sister) in the first clause.

> II.   As the direct one

(3) ki^3 maːk^7 nei^4 pan^{2}kɯn^1, kou^1 haɯ^3 mɯŋ^2 an^1.
These fruit this delicious   I   give you   one cl.
These fruits are delicious. I'll give you one.

In this sentence, the classifier **an^1** serves as a direct object for the predicate **haɯ^3** (give) in the last clause and acts for one of the fruit (ki^3 maːk^7) in the first clause.

Judged by the three sentences mentioned above, both the classifier assuming indirect object and the one assuming direct object have substitutionary functions, but the latter includes the meaning 'one' and the former not.

3.   Classifier as a predicate

A Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier can act as predicate alone in the clause that means 'each shares something.' A classifier like that has three characteristics: (1) The classifier assuming the predicate is not followed by the object; (2) the classifier has the substituionary function; (3) the classifier includes the meaning 'one'. e.g.:

(1) ŋon²nei⁴ kou¹ çauɯ⁴ dai³ soːŋ¹ tu² pit⁷, soːŋ¹ raːn²
today   I   buy   get   two   cl. duck   two   family

rau² fan¹,   raːn²   tu²
we   share   family one cl.

I bought two ducks today and our two families, one for each, shared them.

The third clause in this sentence includes the meaning 'each shares something', so the classifier **tu²**, following the subject **raːn²** (each family, n.with cl. nature-NCN), can serve as a predicate and acts for one of two ducks (soːŋ¹ tu² pit⁷) in the first clause.

(2) kou¹ fan¹ kei³   an¹ luɯk⁸puk⁸ hauɯ³ sou¹, pou⁴ an¹.
I   give a few cl. Shaddock give you   each cl. one cl.

I give you a few shaddocks, one for each person.

The last clause in this sentence includes the meaning 'each shares something', so the classifier **an¹**, following the subject **pou⁴** (cl. as subj.), can serve as a predicate and acts for one of shaddocks (kei³ an¹ luɯk⁸puk⁸) in the first clause.

(3) nei⁴ mi² soːŋ¹ fak⁸ liːm²   muɯŋ² fak⁸,   kou¹ fak⁸.
here has two   cl. sickle you   one cl. I   one cl.

There are two sickles here, and you get one and so do I.

The last two clauses in this sentence includes the meaning 'each shares something', so the two classifiers **fak⁸** following the subjects **muɯŋ²** (you) and **kou¹** (I) respectively, can serve as a predicate and acts for one of two sickles (soːŋ¹ fak⁸ liːm²) in the first clause.

In addition, in Hawyiengz Zhuang, all linguistic units that include the predicate can form a sentence or a clause. The predicate can be composed of the verb, as well as the classifier, CLF+NUM phrase, adjective and INTER PRO, so not every sentence or clause contains a verb. e.g.: **tauɯ² ki³ maːk⁷ pai¹, pou⁴ an¹**. The predicate in the last clause in this sentence is formed by classifier an,¹ and there is no verb omitted between pou⁴ and an¹.

The predicate can be also formed by the noun or noun phrase in Hawyiengz Zhuang, e.g.:

tu²   pja¹   te¹   pja¹lei⁴
CLF   fish   that carp
That is a carp.

me⁶   kou¹   luɯk⁸buɯk⁷ Vu³miŋ²
mother my   woman   place name
My mother is from **Vu³miŋ²**.

The classifier cannot act as a subject pronoun in a clause that contains the predicate noun.

4.   Classifier as an attributive

In the past, some held that a Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier cannot act as an attribute alone. But the facts of Hawyiengz Zhuang language are just the opposite: A Hawyiengz Zhuang classifier can definitely be put after the noun and plays the role of an attribute that modifies the noun and shows the complete appearance of something. e.g.:

(1) $kɯn^2$ $naːm^6$ mi^2 $haːu^3laːi^1$ hau^4 (nat^8).
       up   earth   has   many   rice   grain cl.
       There are many grains of rice on the ground.

In this sentence, the noun **hau^4** (rice) is the central word and the classifier **nat^8** (grain) an attribute that modifies **hau^4** in front of it. **hau^4 nat^8** means 'complete grain of rice'.

(2) te^1 $laːu^1$ vun^2 $(kjoŋ^5)$.
       he   fear   people   crowd cl.
       He fears the throng.

In this sentence, **vun^2 $kjoŋ^5$** is not a collective noun but a word group in Hawyiengz Zhuang, in which the classifier **$kjoŋ^5$** (crowd) acts as an attribute and modifies the noun **vun^2** (people) in front of it. **vun^2 $kjoŋ^5$** means 'people in crowds'.

(3) $taɯ^2$ rin^1 (kep^7) dau^3 sep^8 ka^1 $çoŋ^2$.
       take   stone   piece cl.   come   pad   leg   bed
       Put some thin pieces of stone under the legs of the bed.

In this sentence, the classifier **kep^7** (thin piece) acts as an attribute and modifies the noun **rin^1** (stone) in front of it. **rin^1 kep^7** means 'thin pieces of stones.'

5.   Classifier as an adverb and complement

The classifiers assuming subject, predicate, object and attribute are mainly the ones for nouns, and the classifiers assuming adverbials and complements are mainly the ones for verbs (CFV). CFV lies before the predicate when it acts for an adverbial and after the predicate when it becomes a complement (note: there is nothing omitted between the verb and the complement in Hawyiengz Zhuang. The classifier as a complement itself contains the meaning 'one', not omit 'one').There are similarities as well as differences in function and in meaning between the CFV assuming an adverbial and the one assuming a complement. In common, both of them have relations with the predicate and include the meaning 'one'.

However, they differ in that the former modifies the verb assuming the predicate and stresses 'a time for action' and includes the meaning 'each' whereas the latter gives an additional explanation to the verb assuming the predicate and stresses 'the unit of action' and includes the meaning 'one' .e.g.:

(1) I. As an adverbial alone:

ki³   juɯ¹   nei⁴ bou³ dai³ kɯn¹ laːi¹, [pai²]
these medicine this not can eat   more once

kɯn¹ ɕe⁶
eat   one cl.
This medicine cannot be repeated, and only one pill at a time.
('[ ]' indicates adverbial)

In the last clause of this sentence, the CFV **pai²** (once) acts as an adverbial in front of the predicate **kɯn¹** (eat) and indicates the meaning 'each time' for the action **pai² kɯn¹ ɕe⁶** means 'take one pill at a time.'

II. To compare this with the single classifier that acts as a complement below the example below:

rau² dau³ pei³   tau³laːn²,   pou⁴   tau²   ⟨pai²⟩.
we   come emulate shoot basket each cl. shoot one cl.
Let's copy each other in shooting (a basket), and each shoots once.

In the last clause of this sentence, the classifier **pai²** is the same as the one in example I, but it acts as a complement after the verb **tau²** (shoot) and indicates the meaning 'one'. **pou⁴ tau² pai²** means 'each person shoots one once' .

(2) I. As an adverbial alone:

ŋon²nei⁴ fɯn¹ bou³ laːi¹, [ra⁵]   roŋ² kei³ ɕak⁷.
Today   rain not more shower cl. drop few drop cl.
It rained a little today, only a few drops for each shower.

In the last clause of this sentence, the CFV **ra⁵** (shower) acts as an adverbial in front of the predicate **roŋ²** (drop) and indicates the meaning 'each shower' for the action **roŋ²**. The clause **ra⁵ roŋ² kei³ ɕak⁷** means 'It drips only a few for each shower.'

II. To compare this with the single classifier that acts as a complement see the example below:

sau⁶nei⁴   fɯn¹ tei⁶,   ŋon² roŋ² ⟨ra⁵⟩.
This period rain dense day   drop shower cl.
It rains often this period, and one shower each day.

The classifier **ra⁵** in last clause of this sentence is the same as the one in example I, but it acts as a complement after the verb **roŋ²** (drop) and indicates the meaning 'one'. The last clause **ŋon² roŋ² ra⁵** means 'it showers once a day'.

(3) I. As an adverbial alone:

te¹ kjai² kaːŋ³ ko³,   [baːt⁷] kaːŋ³ ha³ rok⁷ an¹ pai¹
he love tell stories once cl. tell five six cl. mood
He likes telling stories, more than five at a time.

The CFV **baːt⁷** (once) in the last clause of this sentence acts as an adverbial before the predicate **kaːŋ³** (tell) and indicates the meaning 'each time' for the action **kaːŋ³**. The clause **baːt⁷ kaːŋ³ ha³ rok⁷ an¹** means 'to tell more than five stories at once.'

II. To compare this with the single classifier that acts as a complement see the example below:

rau² heu¹ ta⁴koŋ¹   kaːŋ³ ko³,   te¹ duːn¹ kaŋ³
we   ask grandfather tell stories he month tell

<baːt⁷> duɯi¹.
once cl. only
We ask our grandfather to tell stories to us and he does, once a month.

The CFV (baːt⁷) in the last clause of this sentence is the same as the one in example I, but it acts as a complement after the verb **kaŋ³** (tell) and indicates the meaning 'one'. The last clause **te¹ duːn¹** (NCN) **kaːŋ³ baːt⁷ duɯi¹** means 'he tells only one story to us per month.'

6.   Conclusion and discussion

To sum up, the fact that Hawyiengz Zhuang classifiers can act as all six constituents of the sentences demonstrates the characteristics of Hawyiengz Zhuang classifiers. This grammatical phenomenon therefore is a basis for a study of the development and the regularity of the whole set of Kam-Tai classifiers.

Only under the conditions 1:1-1:5 can the classifier act as the SUBJ.PRO, so a predicate is indeed the conditioning constituent for the classifier as a SUBJ.PRO.

In Hawyiengz Zhuang, the classifier itself contains the meaning 'one', therefore, it can act as the complement alone without omitting 'one'.

The grammatical rules above can be understood well by native Hawyiengz Zhuang speakers but maybe misunderstood by non-native Hawyiengz Zhuang speakers. All speakers should respect the grammatical rules.

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