

## ハイダ語の類別接頭辞と名詞類別

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## Classifiers and Noun Classification in Haida

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Haida, a language isolate that is spoken in the northwestern coast of British Columbia, Canada, has classifiers that are attached to a verbal root as prefixes. Their typical usage involves categorizing a noun that functions as the object of a transitive clause or subject of an intransitive clause, which is mainly based on its animacy and physical property. However, the categories defined by classifiers can vary, that is, there are some nouns that can be associated with more than one category, depending on which property of the referent is perceived by a speaker as being more salient in a discourse. In Haida, classifiers can be used to denote the temporary or inherent state of a referent, as well, for example, apples can be associated with a classifier for a boxlike thing when they are packed in a box. This study argues that the essential function of classifiers in Haida is to individualize a referent of the noun: they are used to highlight the physical property or the state of the referent that is perceived by a speaker as being the most prominent in a discourse.