THE ROLE OF CLASSIFIERS IN QUANTIFICATION
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Classifiers in Bangla include the Collective /gulo/ as in (1) and the Default /Ta/ as in (2)-(4):
(1) Onekgulo chele
many-Coll boy 'a lot of boys'
(2) OnekTa dudh
much-TA milk 'a lot of milk'
(3) paMcTa meye
five-TA girl 'five girls'
(4) EkTa meye
one-TA girl 'one girl'

The contrast between (1) and (2) is replicated also with the quantifier /SOb/:
(5) SObgulo angur
all-Coll grape 'all the grapes'
(6) SObTa dudh
all-TA milk 'all the milk'

This material permits the conservative proposal that the quantifiers /Onek/ 'a lot' and /SOb/ 'all' use an appropriate classifier to achieve compatibility with the noun's mass or count feature. Such an analysis leaves the classifier itself not doing much work. Since many languages have no classifiers, this elimination of any LF role for the classifier might seem desirable as part of the strategy of minimizing cross-linguistic diversity at LF.

There is evidence, however, that forces us to attribute a more active role to the classifier in quantification. First, the diminutive and extensive classifiers /Tuku/ and /khani/ build expressions that quantify nouns and thereby can occur prenominally as in (7) and (8), a privilege X-Cla sequences otherwise don't have in Bangla (in contrast to Assamese, which allows X-Cla-N for any X):
(7) eTuku doi
this-Dim yoghurt 'this little bit of yoghurt'
(8) Onekkhani SomOy
a-lot-Ext time 'a lot of time'

The element /Tuku/ has only a quantificational use; /khani/ differs from the /Ta/ of (2) in terms of what must be quantificational features; and non-quantificational Cla in Bangla never appears between a demonstrative and a noun.

Secondly, the adjective /puro/ complete' as in (9), when the Default classifier /Ta/ is added to it as in (10), turns quantificational:
(9) puro gramer jOnoSOnkha
whole village's population 'the population of the whole village'
(10) puroTa dudh
whole-TA milk 'all the milk'

Thirdly, quantificational adverbs frequently end in a classifier:
(11) projet Ekhono SObTa Sere jay ni
Projit yet all-TA recover Aux Neg
'Projit has not yet fully recovered'
(12) barin EtoTa / Etokhani rege gEche jantam na
Barin so-TA / so-Ext get-angry Aux knew Neg
'I didn't know Barin had become so angry'

In Bangla, then, a classifier consistently carries basic quantifier features. These are supplemented by the features of its host word, whose character is left open.

Notice that X-Cla N alternates with the familiar definite construction X N-Cla if and only if the host word X is not itself a quantifier:
(13)a. eTuku dudh = (7) above
b. e dudhTuku
this milk-Dim
(14)a. puroTa dudh = (10) above
b. puro dudhTa
whole milk-TA
(15)a. kOtoTuku dudh
how-much-Dim milk
'how little milk'
We conclude that the LF work done by familiar quantifiers in a language devoid of classifiers is distributed over the classifier and its host in Bangla. It is then inappropriate to treat classifiers as LF-uninterpretable.