

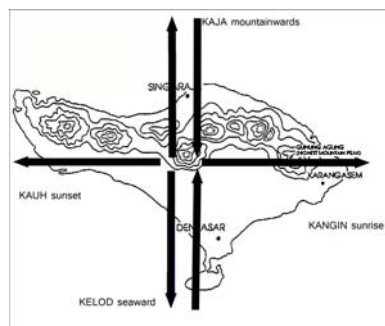
Spatial and non-spatial deixis in Kata Kolok

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1

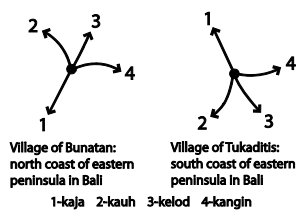
The Balinese conception of space

Wassmann & Dasen 1998



2

The Balinese conception of space

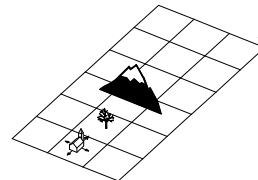
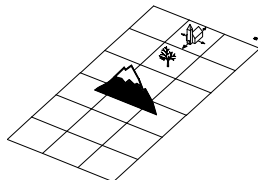


Wassmann and Dasen 1998

3

Absolute FoR v's Landmark-based descriptions

Description	Expression	Figure	
		Left	Right
Landmark-based	"The tree is mountainward of the church"	True	True
Absolute	"The tree is to the west of the church"	True	False



4

The cultural significance of the cardinal directions

Cardinal directions are associated with gods

Architecture

Child rearing

Co-speech gesture

(Covarubias 1950; Mead & Bateson 1942; Wassmann and Dasen 1998; 2006)

5



Fieldsite: Bengkala

2,200 villagers

North Bali

Hindu

Subsistence farmers (rambutan, mango etc.)

Local businesses

7

Desa Kolok

2.2% congenital deafness versus 0.01% in the United States

(Winata et al 1995)

+ 5 generations of native signers

48 Deaf signers - 1,200 hearing signers

(Marsaja 2008)

8

Desa Kolok

Integration of deaf villagers into the wider hearing community:

- Communication through sign language in all aspects of village life (politics, liturgy, education etc.)
- Equal chances at marriage (Branson et al. 2004)
- Similar economic status

9

Desa Kolok

Socio-cultural construction of deafness:

(Branson et al. 2004; Marsaja 2008)

- Special offices reserved for the deaf men
 - burying the dead
 - village security guard
 - water pipe maintenance
- Bhatara Kolok 'deaf god'
- Janger Kolok 'deaf dance'

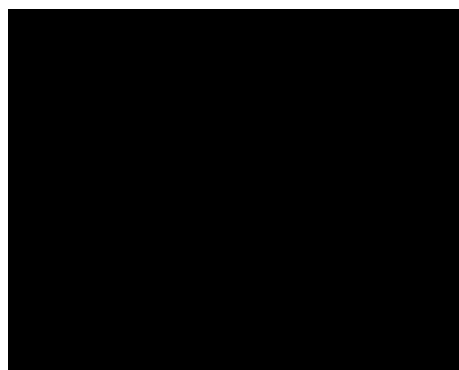
10

A corpus of Kata Kolok

- July '06-March '09
- 11 months of fieldwork
- 100 hours of video data
- Including: informal conversational data, culturally entrenched narratives, hearing (non-)fluent signers, child signing

11

Kata Kolok



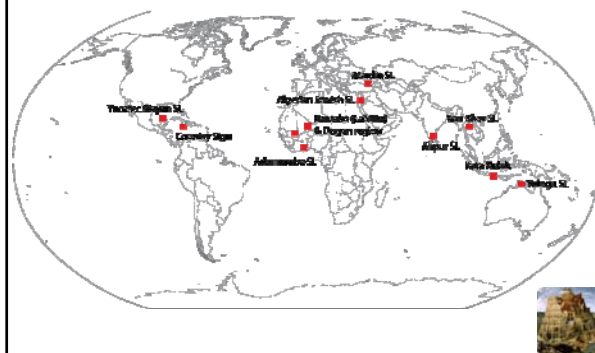
12

Kata Kolok vs. Balinese

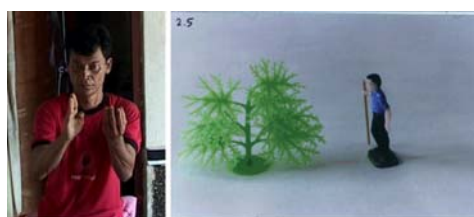
- Differences in core lexical domains such as kinship and colour (de Vos 2011)
- Distinct word order patterns (Arka 2003; de Vos forthcoming)
- Both languages prefer an absolute Frame of Reference

13

EuroBABEL Village Sign project



Simultaneous Classifier Construction

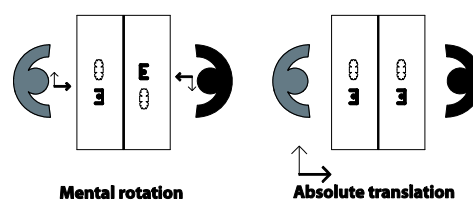


rh CL-B'man facing tree'
lh TREE

Emmorey 2003; Talmy 2003; Perniss 2007; Arik 2009; de Vos in preparation

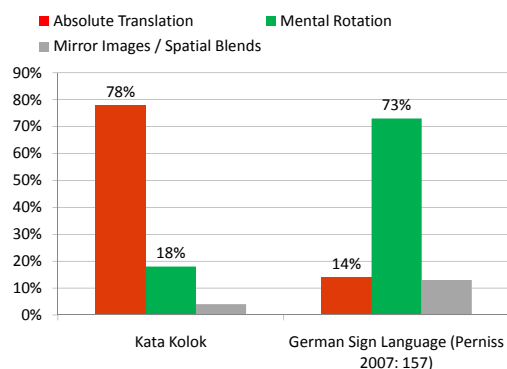
15

Interpretation of SCCs



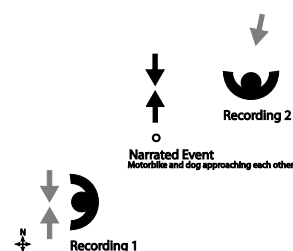
16

Interpretation of SCCs (N=130)



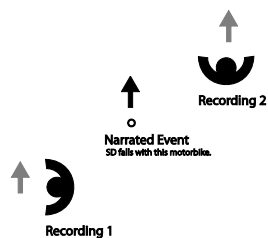
17

The Absolute For in narratives (SD approaching dog)



18

The absolute FoR in narratives (SD's fall)



19

Recording 1 (signer facing west)



'He was going Southward, the dog was going North.'

'He fell in a Northerly direction.'

20

Recording 2 (signer facing north)



'He was going Southward, the dog was standing there.'

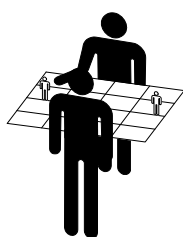
'He fell in a Northerly direction.'

21

Person deixis in sign languages

22

Localisation: pronominal pointing in empty signing space



23

Functions of localisation: spatial verb inflection



₁TELL₂
'I tell you'



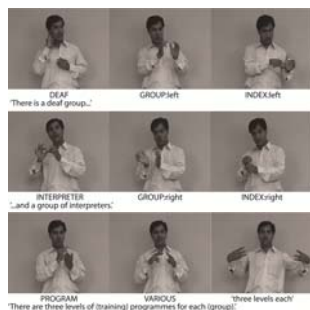
₂TELL₁
'You tell me'

Jordanian Sign Language, Hendriks 2008

24

Functions of localisation: discourse coherence – an example from Indian Sign Language

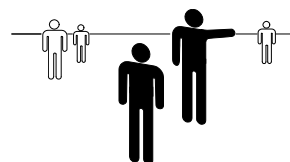
Zeshan, de Vos, & Marsaja under review



25

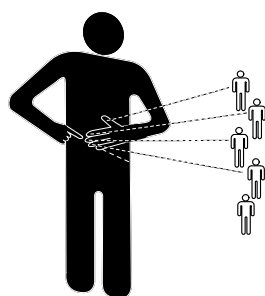
Kata Kolok: pointing at geographic locations

(Zeshan 2006; Marsaja 2008; Perniss & Zeshan 2008)



26

Kata Kolok: List buoys



27

Kata Kolok

Transitive predicates that are *not* spatially inflected:

TALK, GIVE, TAKE, SEE, LEARN, BUY, RESPECT, ASK, SUMMON, WANT, MARRY, CALL-ON-TELEPHONE, YELL-AT, and ADOPT

(Marsaja:168-171; de Vos forthcoming)

28

GIVE: 1st person recipient

NM _____ hs 'pah'
MG B:i GIVE NEG RICE
ND
'He wouldn't give me any rice.'

29

GIVE: 1st person recipient



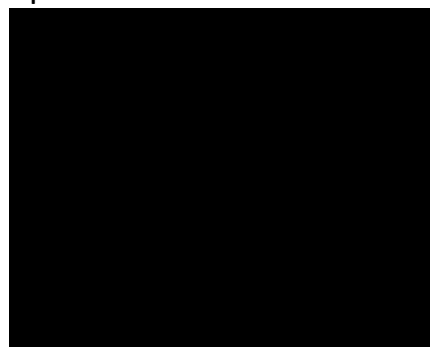
30

Transitive verb: TALK



31

Incipient transitive construction?



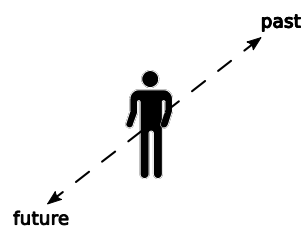
32

Temporal deixis in sign languages

33

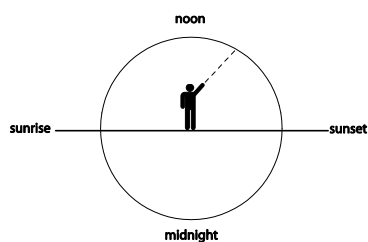
Typologically common body-anchored timeline

(e.g. Engberg-Pedersen 1993 on Danish Sign Language)



34

Kata Kolok: absolute celestial timeline to indicate times during day and night



(see also Marsaja 2008)

35

Kata Kolok: temporal inference

With rare exceptions temporal adverbs are vague with respect to past or future reference

Verbs are not marked for tense (as in many other sign languages)

There is a primary distinction between present and non-present is marked by the sign PIDAN

36

Summary

Kata Kolok is the first reported case of an 'absolute' sign language

- Absolute interpretation of classifiers
- Absolute pointing
- Absolute celestial timeline

37

Limited use of signing space

Geographic pointing signs are not subsequently exploited to construct cohesive discourse

No spatial verb inflection

Celestial timeline is not extended to other temporal domains

38

Conclusion

While all sign languages capitalise on the affordances of the visual-gestural modality, they exhibit cross-linguistic variation in the extent to which and the ways in which the signing space is deployed.

While Kata Kolok and Balinese are independent languages, both are grounded in the culturally salient geocentric cognitive style.

This is reflected in Kata Kolok's use of the signing space in both spatial and non-spatial deictic domains.

39