**Motion event descriptions in Standard Indonesian:
An experimental study**

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Questions

In this talk, I will look into descriptions of **self-motion** events in (Standard) Indonesian, focusing on two questions:

‣ Which meaning occupies the head (i.e., verb) position? Manner? Path?

‣ Do different types of path affect motion event descriptions?

And, I will examine its position in the framing typology:

‣ **Verb-framed pattern**: Path is encoded **in the head (= main verb)** of a sentence

‣ **Sentence-framed pattern**: Path is coded elsewhere
cf. Talmy (1985, 1991, 2000), Matsumoto (2003, 2017)

Data were collected through the NINJAL project of **M**otion **E**vent **D**escriptions **A**cross **L**anguages (MEDAL).

‣ A cross-linguistic experimental study led by Yo Matsumoto (NINJAL)

Prior studies

In the literature, Malay has been analysed as a "**verb-framing language**" (Huang and Tanangkingsing 2005:337; cf. Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2009).

‣ Based on frequency counts of frog stories

Why motion?

❖ Motion is a common basic event that people experience and talk about a lot.

❖ Motion is a complex event with alternative possibilities of expressions.

❖ Crosslinguistic variations can be seen w.r.t.:

‣ How to map different event components onto units in a sentence?

‣ What to code, and what not to code?

MEDAL project: Experiment C

❖ Characteristics:
  ‣ Production experiment
  ‣ Use of video clips on a computer screen
  ‣ Video helps speakers to be located in the scene

❖ Experiment C:
  ‣ Focus on the differences among different paths
  ‣ 44 video clips in total
  ‣ 2 manners x 14 paths
    – manner: WALK, RUN
    – path: FROM, TO, TOWARD, PAST, VIA (+BETWEEN/UNDER), ALONG, AROUND, INTO, OUT, ACROSS, THROUGH, UP, DOWN
  ‣ Additional clips for complex trajectories

Constructions employed for motion descriptions

❖ Common strategies for motion descriptions:

❖ Multi-verb constructions:
  ‣ Sbj + manner verb + path verb
    e.g. *Seorang laki-laki berlari menaiki tangga*
  ‣ Sbj + manner verb + *dan/lalu* + path verb
    e.g. *Seorang laki-laki berlari lalu menaiki tangga*

❖ Single-verb constructions:
  ‣ Sbj + manner verb + PP
    e.g. *Seorang pria berjalan di sepanjang pinggir sungai*
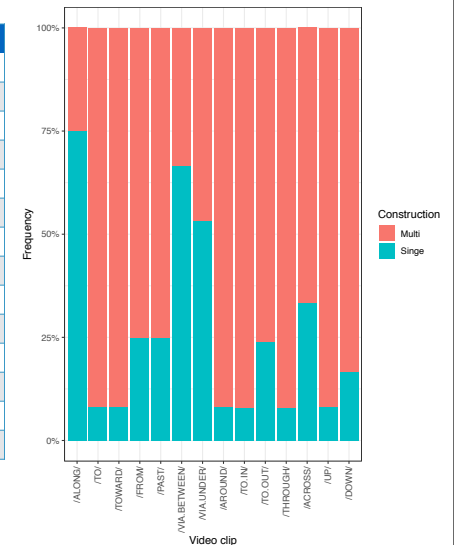 ‣ Sbj + path verb + PP

Frequency of Manner, Path, and Deixis

Frequency of MPD

	Freq.	Avergage
Manner	152	0.90
Path	180	1.07
Deixis	0	0
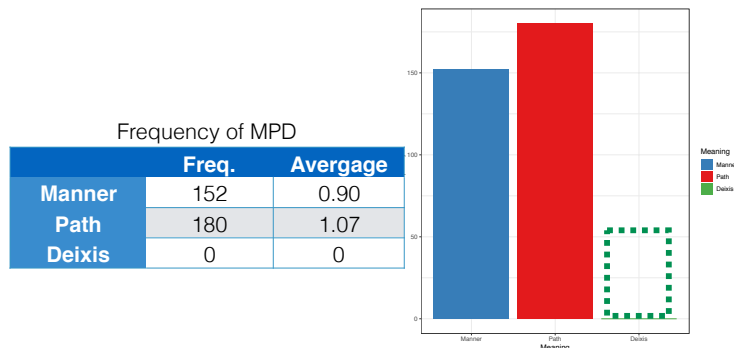
Either as a head or as a satellite element:
  ‣ Path is **always** expressed per clip.
  ‣ Manner is expressed **over 90 percent** of the time.
  ‣ Deixis is **never** expressed.

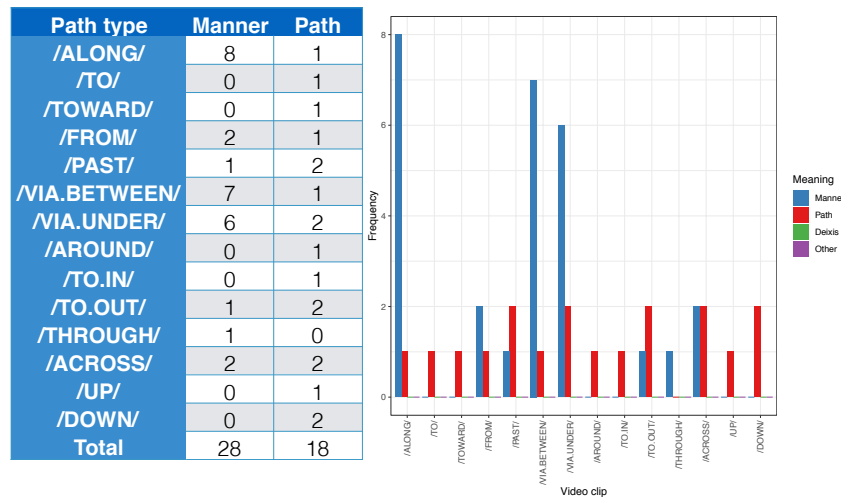## Construction type per Path type

Path.type	Singe	Multi
/ALONG/	75.0%	25.0%
/TO/	8.3%	91.7%
/TOWARD/	8.3%	91.7%
/FROM/	25.0%	75.0%
/PAST/	25.0%	75.0%
VIA.BETWEEN	66.7%	33.3%
/VIA.UNDER/	53.3%	46.7%
/AROUND/	8.3%	91.7%
/TO.IN/	8.0%	92.0%
/TO.OUT/	24.0%	76.0%
/THROUGH/	8.0%	92.0%
/ACROSS/	33.3%	66.7%
/UP/	8.3%	91.7%
/DOWN/	16.7%	83.3%

Frequency of M/P in single-verb constructions

Path type	Manner	Path
/ALONG/	8	1
/TO/	0	1
/TOWARD/	0	1
/FROM/	2	1
/PAST/	1	2
/VIA.BETWEEN/	7	1
/VIA.UNDER/	6	2
/AROUND/	0	1
/TO.IN/	0	1
/TO.OUT/	1	2
/THROUGH/	1	0
/ACROSS/	2	2
/UP/	0	1
/DOWN/	0	2
Total	28	18

Frequency of M/P in multi-verb constructions

Path type	Manner	Path
/ALONG/	3	3
/TO/	11	11
/TOWARD/	11	11
/FROM/	9	9
/PAST/	9	9
/VIA.BETWEEN/	4	4
/VIA.UNDER/	6	8
/AROUND/	11	11
/TO.IN/	10	13
/TO.OUT/	7	12
/THROUGH/	11	12
/ACROSS/	8	8
/UP/	11	11
/DOWN/	10	10
Total	121	132
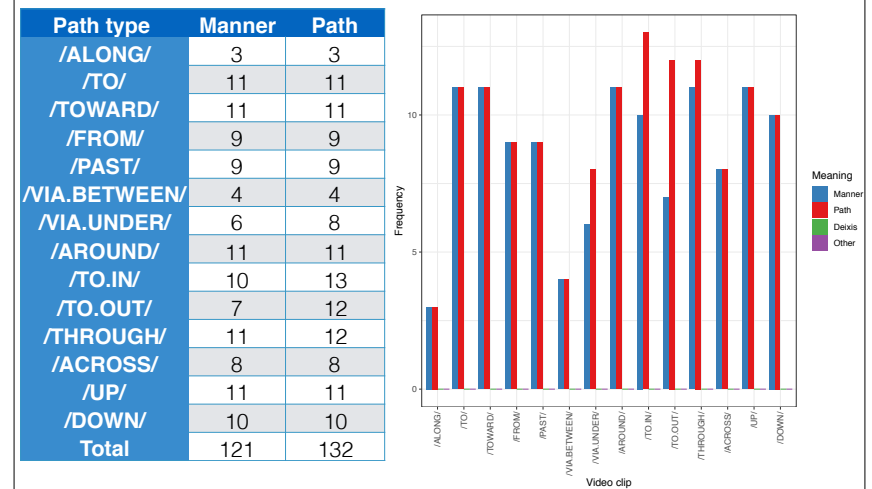
Meanings of verbs

Meanings of all verbs in both single- and multi-verb constructions:
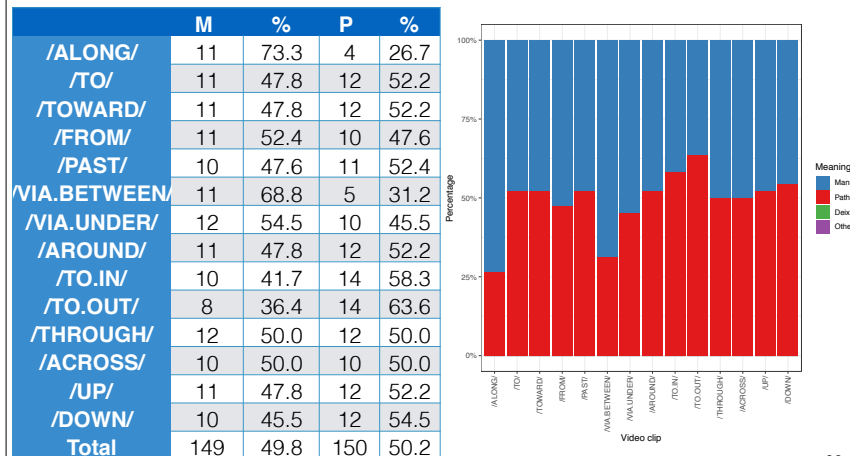
	M	%	P	%
/ALONG/	11	73.3	4	26.7
/TO/	11	47.8	12	52.2
/TOWARD/	11	47.8	12	52.2
/FROM/	11	52.4	10	47.6
/PAST/	10	47.6	11	52.4
/VIA.BETWEEN/	11	68.8	5	31.2
/VIA.UNDER/	12	54.5	10	45.5
/AROUND/	11	47.8	12	52.2
/TO.IN/	10	41.7	14	58.3
/TO.OUT/	8	36.4	14	63.6
/THROUGH/	12	50.0	12	50.0
/ACROSS/	10	50.0	10	50.0
/UP/	11	47.8	12	52.2
/DOWN/	10	45.5	12	54.5
Total	149	49.8	150	50.2

Issue (I): Verb serialization (!?)

❖ How should we analyze the most common construction pattern? What is **the head** in this construction?

▸ (ex) *Seorang laki-laki berlari menaiki tangga.*

▸ Is it a serial verb construction (like SVCs in Thai)?

▸ Is it a verb chaining (like Japanese *-te* construction)?

▸ Or is it a series of two separate sentences?

❖ Different analyses put Standard Indonesian in different positions in the framing typology:

| Analysis	Framing typology
Verb serialization	Equipollent-framed
Verb chaining	Verb-framed/satellite-framed
Separate sentences	No event integration

Issue (II): V-language?

❖ In the literature, Malay/Indonesian has been considered as a **verb-framed language** (Huang and Tanangkingsing 2005, etc.):
- ‣ **Path is coded in the main verb, while manner is subordinated to path** (like Japanese, Korean, Spanish, etc.

❖ But the results of the experiment show it may not be necessarily the case:
- ‣ Manner (main) verbs appeared as often as path (main) verbs.
- ‣ Standard Indonesian has a multiple-verb construction, which is usually associated with satellite-framed languages (cf. Slobin 1996, etc.)
  (e.g.) *Seorang pria melompat dari atas meja ke bangku.*
  A man flew from the table to the bench.
- ‣ Also, look at this satellite-framed construction:
  (e.g.) *Seorang laki-laki berjalan ke arah payung.*

Issue (iii): Variations in the encoding of Paths

❖ Different constructions are chosen for different Paths:
- ‣ /ALONG/, /VIA.BETWEEN/, and /VIA.UNDER/ → Single-verb constructions
- ‣ Other paths → Multi-verb constructions

❖ Indonesian speakers do not use these constructions randomly.
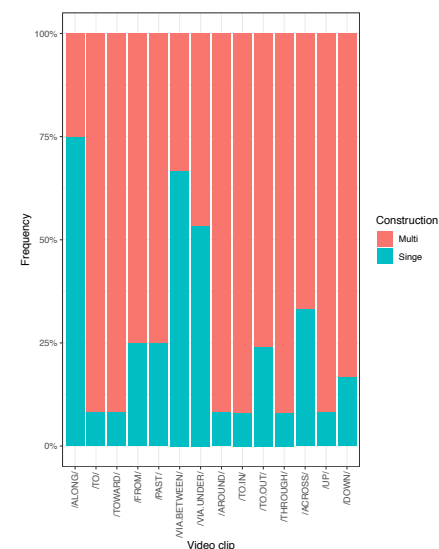
Issue (iv): Crosslinguistically rare features (!?)

❖ Some crosslinguistically rare features were found:
- ‣ Compared to other languages investigated in the NINJAL MEDAL project

❖ [1] The Path TO is often lexicalized in verbs:
- ‣ *Seorang laki-laki berlari menuju meja kecil di alun-alun.*
- ‣ *ke* is not used for describing the /TO/ scene

❖ [2] The Path ALONG can be lexicalized in verbs:
- ‣ *Seorang pria berjalan menyusuri sungai.*

❖ In other languages, these Paths are usually coded by prepositions rather than (main) verbs
- ‣ Even in typical verb-framed languages such as Turkish and Spanish

Summary

❖ Observation:
- ‣ Multi-verb constructions are most frequently used for motion event descriptions in Indonesian.

❖ I asked the two questions concerning motion event descriptions in Standard Indonesian:
- ‣ Which meaning occupies the head (i.e., verb) position? Manner? Path?
  — No clear pattern.
  — It is difficult to categorize Indonesian either as verb-framed or as satellite-framed.
- ‣ Do different types of path affect motion event descriptions?
  — Yes. The choice of construction types depends on Path types.

❖ Some crosslinguistically rare features are also found.