



Kata Kolok

an isolated village community

7 generations of hereditary deafness
(Winata et al. 1995)

50 deaf individuals (total population of 2,200)

two-thirds of the hearing population signs
(Marsaja 2008)

no related sign languages

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Methodology

One year of fieldwork

100 hours of video data:

- 6 hours of transcribed spontaneous data
incl. data from I Gede Marsaja and Waldemar Schwager
- 64 vignettes of reciprocal videos from MPI (4 signers)
- 16 Give and Take events from Asli Ozyurek (6 signers)

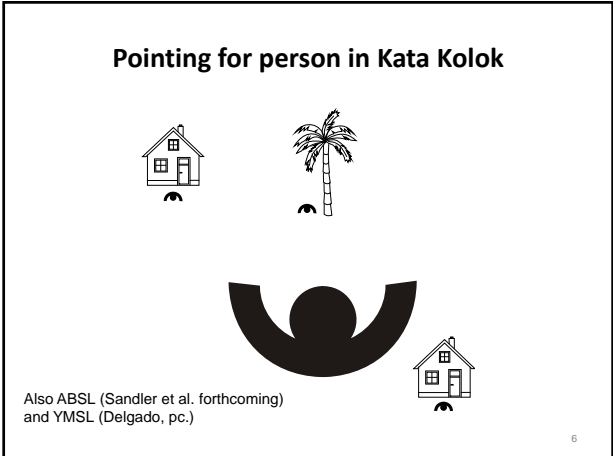
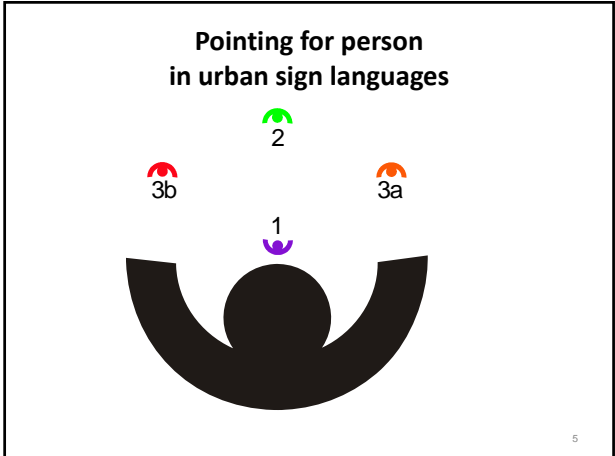
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Typologically rare features of Kata Kolok

Pointing signs may not be directed at areas of empty signing space.

Spatial verb inflection is virtually absent from the language.

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Spatial verb inflection



¹TELL₂
'I tell you'



²TELL₁
'You tell me'

Jordanian Sign Language, Hendriks 2008

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Spatial verb inflection:

a universal in sign languages?

(See for instance Aronoff et al., 2005; Liddell, 2003; Meier, 1990; Talmy, 2003; Woll, 2003)



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'I tell you'



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Kata Kolok has virtually no spatial inflection

There are only **5 tokens** of spatially modified predicates in **6 hours** of transcribed spontaneous data.

See also ABSL (Sandler et al. 2005)

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Spatially modifiable predicates

GIVE, GIVE-ME, GIVE#DISTRIBUTIVE
HIT, GET-HIT
TALK, TALK-TO-ME
SEE, SEE-ME, SEE-EACH-OTHER

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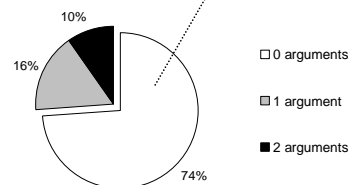
Core arguments marked by constituent order?

It has been suggested that strict SVO constituent order is used to mark core arguments in Kata Kolok (Marsaja 2008).

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Core arguments in discourse

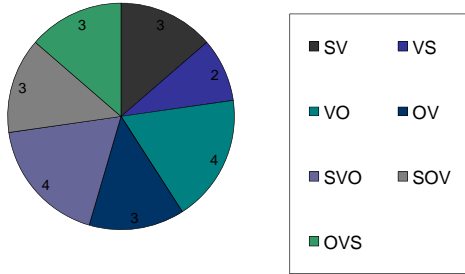
Almost three-quarters of the VPs have no overt arguments.



n=105

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Core arguments with transitive VPs

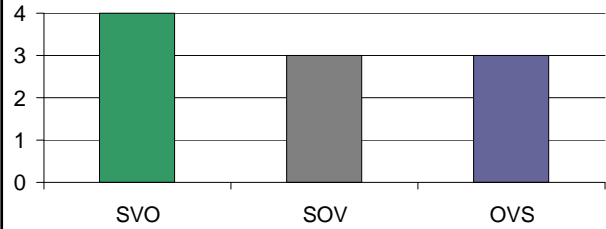


n=22

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Core arguments in transitive sentences

Constituent order varies between SVO, SOV and OVS.



n=10

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Kata Kolok: a discourse-configurational language

In 74% of the verb phrases the core arguments are dropped.

Individuals are normally referred to by pointing at exophoric locations.

The core arguments of a transitive verb phrase do not seem to be marked syntactically.

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Characteristics of elicited data

Less topic drop: individuals are identified by lexical signs or ad hoc sign names.

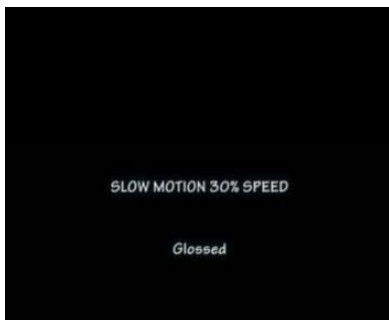
Nouns are localized in signing space.

Instead of exophoric pointing, Kata Kolok signers use list buoys as an anaphoric strategy.

List buoys can form the base for the use of 'give'.

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List buoys used for directional 'give'



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Summary

Neither verb inflection nor constituent order are reliable cues to resolve 'who did what to whom' in spontaneous Kata Kolok data.

Referential strategies in spontaneous Kata Kolok data can be characterized as exophoric.

Preliminary analysis of elicited data suggests that both endophoric pointing and indicating verbs may be produced on list buoys in decontextualized language settings.

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Conclusions

The referential strategies adopted seem to be influenced by the methodology used to elicit data: exophoric strategies are prevalent in spontaneous Kata Kolok discourse, while endophoric strategies are might be more frequent in decontextualized settings.

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Discussion

The difference between Kata Kolok and urban signed languages could be a reflection of two typologically equally valid options, or

urban signed languages could have developed a preference for endophoric rather than exophoric referential strategies because they are more often used in decontextualized settings.

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