### Methodology

One year of fieldwork

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

### 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.

### Pointing for person in urban sign languages

![Pointing for person in urban sign languages](image)

Also ABSL (Sandler et al. forthcoming) and YMSL (Delgado, pc.)

### Pointing for person in Kata Kolok

![Pointing for person in Kata Kolok](image)
Spatial verb inflection

Jordanian Sign Language, Hendriks 2008

Spatial verb inflection:
a universal in
sign languages?

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

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)

Spatially modifiable predicates

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

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).

Core arguments in discourse

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

n=105
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.

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’.

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.
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.

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.