SPATIAL REFERENCES IN NGAJU DAYAK
(Spoken in Central Kalimantan)

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• This language is spoken by 890,000 speakers along the Kapuas, Kahayan, Katingan and Mentaya rivers (Ethnologue 2014).
• Identify what spatial reference frames are used by the Dayaks to describe the directions in geographical environments.
• Talmy (1975, 1983) provided the concepts of:
  • --Primary Reference Object (Figure)
  • --Secondary Reference Object (Ground)

Figure: thing or someone undergoes the motion. It can be moving; a locative object
Ground: the reference object used to establish the position of the figure; a locative object.

• The analysis was carried out on the corpus-based data.
Kalimantan-Indonesia
Rivers flowing in Central Kalimantan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kahayan_River
The orbit or position of the sun in the sky is used to provide spatial references. The sun is the secondary reference object (ground) which is unmovable (static) and the earth or ego is the primary reference object that is moveable (dynamic). The position of the sun involves *pambelum* ‘life’ refers to the direction where the sun rises and *pambelep* ‘death’ refers to where the sun sets.
Terms of references on river in Counter Parts

- tumbang
- masuh
- ngawa
- hulu
- murik
- ngaju
- ngambu
- ngiwa
*murik* ‘go.upstream’ vs *masuh* ‘go.downstream’
(dynamic: go along a path)
a. murik ‘go.upstream’ vs masuh ‘go.downstream’
(dynamic: go along a path)

(1)a. Ewen nah handak murik andau jewu.
   3PL PART MOD go.upstream day tomorrow
   ‘They are going upstream tomorrow.’

   b. Ewen handak murik akan Palangkaraya jewu.
   3PL MOD go.upstream PREP Palangkaraya tomorrow
   ‘They are going up(stream) to Palangkaraya tomorrow.’

(2)a. Pea ketun masuh tinai?
   when 2PL go.downstream again
   ‘When do you go down(stream) again?’

   b. Pea ketun masuh ka ngawa?
   when 2PL go.downstream PREP downward
   ‘When do you go down(stream)?’
*ngaju* ‘upward’ vs *ngawa* ‘downward’

(static: location, goal)
b. *ngaju* ‘upward’ vs *ngawa* ‘downward’

(static: location, goal)

(3) *Manggau lauk hila* ngaju hakabeken dengan hila ngawa kanateke.

look.for fish part upward different PREP part down sometimes
‘Fishing upward is sometimes different from fishing downward’

(4)a. *Aku handak ka ngawa ma-mili behas.*

1SG MOD PREP downward AF-buy rice
‘I am going down (to a location) to buy rice.’

b. *le dia ulih undur tuntang mules akan hila ngawa awi danum*

3TG NEG MOD go.back CONJ turn.back PREP part downward because water
*paham dehes.*

very current
‘He could not reverse and turn back downward because the current flowed very quickly.’
*ngambu* ‘away from’ vs *ngiwa* ‘toward (river)’
(dynamic: path toward or away from river)
c. *ngambu* ‘away from’ vs *ngiwa* ‘toward (river)’
(dynamic: path toward or away from river)

(5)a. Bapa-e ka ngambu manggau uei
father-POS PREP away .from look.for rattan
‘His father went *upland* (forest, away from river) to look for rattan’

b. Te oloh manunda nantekas tali pisi akan ngambu.
DET people pull.up suddenly line fishing PREP away
‘People pulled up suddenly the fishing line *upward* (away from the water).’

(6) Kawan anak uluh nanture akan ngambu metuh ewen gite pungau
group children look PREP away when 3PL see bird.pungau
*tarawang dengan kelep.*
fly PREP turtle
‘A group of children looked at the *sky* (away from river), when they saw a *pungau* (sea bird) fly with a turtle.’
‘If they call you from below (down the river), please don’t say anything so that you don't fall down.’

‘Eter went down to the river to take water.’
**tumbang** ‘river mouth’ vs **hulu** ‘headwaters’

(static: location, goal)
d. **tumbang** ‘river mouth’ vs **hulu** ‘headwaters’

(9) **Ampie bara huran oloh** Dayak manggau lauk into **tumbang**

seem since ago people Dayak look for fish PREP river.mouth

**atawa hulu**

or headwaters

‘Since long ago, the Dayaks have looked for fish at the river mouth or at the headwaters.’

(10) **Ewen manggau lauk sampai ka** **tumbang**.

3PL look for fish PREP PREP river.mouth

‘They looked for fish along the way to the river mouth.’

(11) **Atun palauk ije baya tau iawi hila hulu** **bewei**.

there fish REL only MOD do part headwater only

‘There is a way of catching fish that can only be done at the headwaters.’
*lanting* ‘rafts/floating houses’

*muhun* ‘descend’ vs *mandai* ‘ascend’

(dynamic: along a path)
e. *muhun* ‘descend’ vs *mandai* ‘ascend’
(dynamic: along a (vertical) path)

(12) *Kawan bakei te mu hun ka ngiwa mihup hung sungei.*
group monkey DET descend PREP downward drink PREP river
‘A group of monkeys **descended** down to drink at the river.’

(13) *Limbah mandui hung sungei, ie mandai ka ngambu.*
after bath PREP river 3SG ascend PREP up land
‘After having a bath at the river, he **ascended** up land.’
**f. hunjun ‘on/above’ vs penda ‘under/below’**

(static: location)

(14) **Meto je hung hunjun petak iete bawui, bajang, bahuang.**
  animal REL PREP above land that pig deer bear
  ‘Animals that are on land are pigs, deer, bears.’

(15) **le hundi manggau pisi-e je nihau hung penda huma.**
  3SG go.around look.for fishing.rod-POS REL loose DET below house
  ‘He went round and round looking for his ring that was lost under the house.’

(16) **le malabuh aka-ngku ka penda baya ije kabawak bua ih.**
  3SG throw.down PREP-POS PREP below only NUM seed fruit PART
  ‘He threw down for me only one fruit.’
g. upo-e ‘base’ vs lawi-e ‘tip’
(static: location)

(17) Bakei te manangkajuk akan lawi-n kayu.
monkey DET leap.up PREP tip-POS tree
‘The monkey leapt up to the outer branches of a tree.’

(18) Tewu je hila lawi-e aka-m tuntang hila upo-e akang-ku.
sugar.cane REL PREP tip Prep-POS CONJ PREP base PREP-POS
‘The sugar cane at the tip is for you and the base is for me.’
Non-Counter Parts Spatial References

a. *tapakan* ‘limit’

(static: location)
(19)a. *Pasar te hung tapakan lewu kanih.*

market DET PREP limit village there

‘The market is at the end limit of the village.’

b. *Ela manyuru tapakan jalan te*

NOT walk.through limit road DET

‘Don’t walk through the end limit of that road.’
b. *tambuan* ‘over, above’
(dynamic; location)
b. *tambuan* ‘over, above’
   (dynamic; locative)

(20) *Ewen lime te lulang luli tarawang* tambuan *lewu te.*
    3PL NUM DET back-forth fly over village DET
    ‘The five of them flew back-and-forth over the village.’

(21) *Matanandau jadi hung* tambuan *takuluk.*
    sun Perf PREP over head
    ‘The sun has reached overhead.’
A bridge is one of the references used to refer to an action of moving from one spatial object to the other side, especially across the river and path.
dimpah  ‘cross the river/street; get to the opposite side’
(dynamic: toward goal, perpendicular to river)
c. *dimpah* ‘cross the river/street; get to the opposite side’
   (dynamic: toward goal, perpendicular to river)

(22) Eter *dimpah* akan lewu *sila mahalau jambatan je* *panjang te*
    NAME across PREP village side through bridge REL long DET
    ‘Eter went *across* that long bridge to the village on the opposite side.’

(23) *le palus harikas buli* *dimpah akan lewu-e.*
    3SG then directly go.back across PREP village-POS
    ‘Then he immediately went back *across* (the river/street) to his village.’
tandipah/ ha-tandipah ‘opposite each other’
(static: reciprocal location across)
d. *tandipah/ ha-tandipah* ‘opposite each other’
   (static: reciprocal location across)

(24) Huma-n ikei hung lewu *hatandipah* dengan huma-e.
   house-POS 1PL Ecl PREP village opposite PREP house-POS
   ‘Our house in the village is at the opposite side of his.’

(25) Lewu-n ikei *hatandipah*
   village-POS 1PL Ecl opposite
   ‘Our villages face each other.’

(26) Jatun ati kamangat ah *tandipah* oloh je balaku dohop
   NEG exist convenient PART opposite people REL ask.for help
   ‘It was not convenient to face people who asked for help.’
\textit{dipah} ‘other side’

(static: goal)
**e. dipah ‘other side ’**
(static: goal)

(27) *Ewen mambesi akan dipah sila.*
3PL row PREP other.side side
‘They rowed to the other side of the river.’

(28) *Lewu-n ikei hung dipah sila kanih.*
village-POS 1PL-Ecl PREP other.side side there
‘Our village is on the other side of the river there’.

(29) *Huma-ngku hung dipah jalan sila kanih bakehu.*
house-POS 1SG PREP other.side road side there burnt.down
‘My house on the other side of the road was burnt down.’
f.  **ha-sansila** ‘beside, side by side’
   (static: reciprocal location beside)

(30) **Lewu’e  ha-sansila  dengan  lewun-n  ikei.**
       village-POS  side.by.side  PREP  village-POS  2PL-Ecl
   ‘His village is side by side with ours.’
benteng /bentuk ‘middle/centre’
(static: location)
g. benteng / bentuk ‘middle’
(static: location)

(31) Hung benteng lewu hetuh tege huma betang je panjang tutu.
PREP middle village here exist house Betang REL long too
‘In the middle of the village, there is a Betang house that is too long.’

(32) Ikei mananjung hung bentuk jalan.
1PL-Ecl walk PREP middle street
‘We walked in the middle of the street.’

(33) Tokep bentuk andau Oder buli huma pakasak pangina-e.
near middle day NAME go home cook food-POS
‘Almost mid-day Oder went home to cook his meal.’
h. *saran* ‘edge/bank’
(location: part-whole)

(34) *le malihi indu-e hung saran tasik te*
3SG leave mother-POS PREP edge sea DET
‘He left his mother at the edge of the sea (= shore/beach).’

(35) *Buhei te hatetei hung saran sungei.*
snail DET form.row PART bank river
‘The snails formed rows at the river bank.’
i. batang danum ‘trunk water’
(static: location – goal/source)

(36) indu-ngku genep andau mampukan hung batang danum.
    mother-POS every day wash.clothes PREP trunk water
    ‘My mother every day washes clothes at the main river.’

(37) le limbah mandui bara batang danum.
    3SG after bath PREP trunk water
    ‘He has taken a bath from the main river.’
Sun as one of spatial references

pambelum ‘life’ vs pambelep ‘death’

(static: location)

(38)a. *Tanjung ewen te bara tana aka-n hila matanandau.*
walk 3PL DET PREP field PREP-AF part sun
‘Their walk is from the field to the direction of the sun.’

b. *Huma betang te manaharep matanandau belep.*
house betang DET face sun off
‘The “betang” house faces where the sun sets.’

(39)a. *Arah itah ngaliling bukit tuh iete bara hila pambelep ka hila pambelum.*
direction 1PL-Inc go.round hill DET that from part sunset PREP part sunrise
‘Our direction to go round the hill is from sunset/death to sunrise/life.’

b. *Huma-n ikei je hung lewu sila te manaharep hila pambelum.*
house-Poss 1PL-Ecl Rel PREP village next PART face part sunrise
‘Our house that is at the next village facing sunrise/life.’
Summary

• Directional terms used by Dayaks for spatial reference are complex, and often with reference to rivers.
• Either static or dynamic terms may be used to describe directional and spatial relations with the topography; with the primary reference object (figure) and the secondary reference object (ground).
• The most common points of references are rivers and streams. Verbs, prepositions and other directionals indicate motion along a path, toward a goal, away from a source, motion across, position across, or relative to another location, almost all with reference to rivers.
• Where the sun rises *pambelum*, can be used figuratively for ‘life’; where the sun sets *pambelep*, can be used figuratively for ‘death’.
REFERENCES

Ethnologue. 2014. www.ethnologue.com
Thank you