



# Orientation or Location? A Case-Study of Jaminjung and Kriol

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# Orientation or Location?

A case study of Jaminjung and  
Kriol

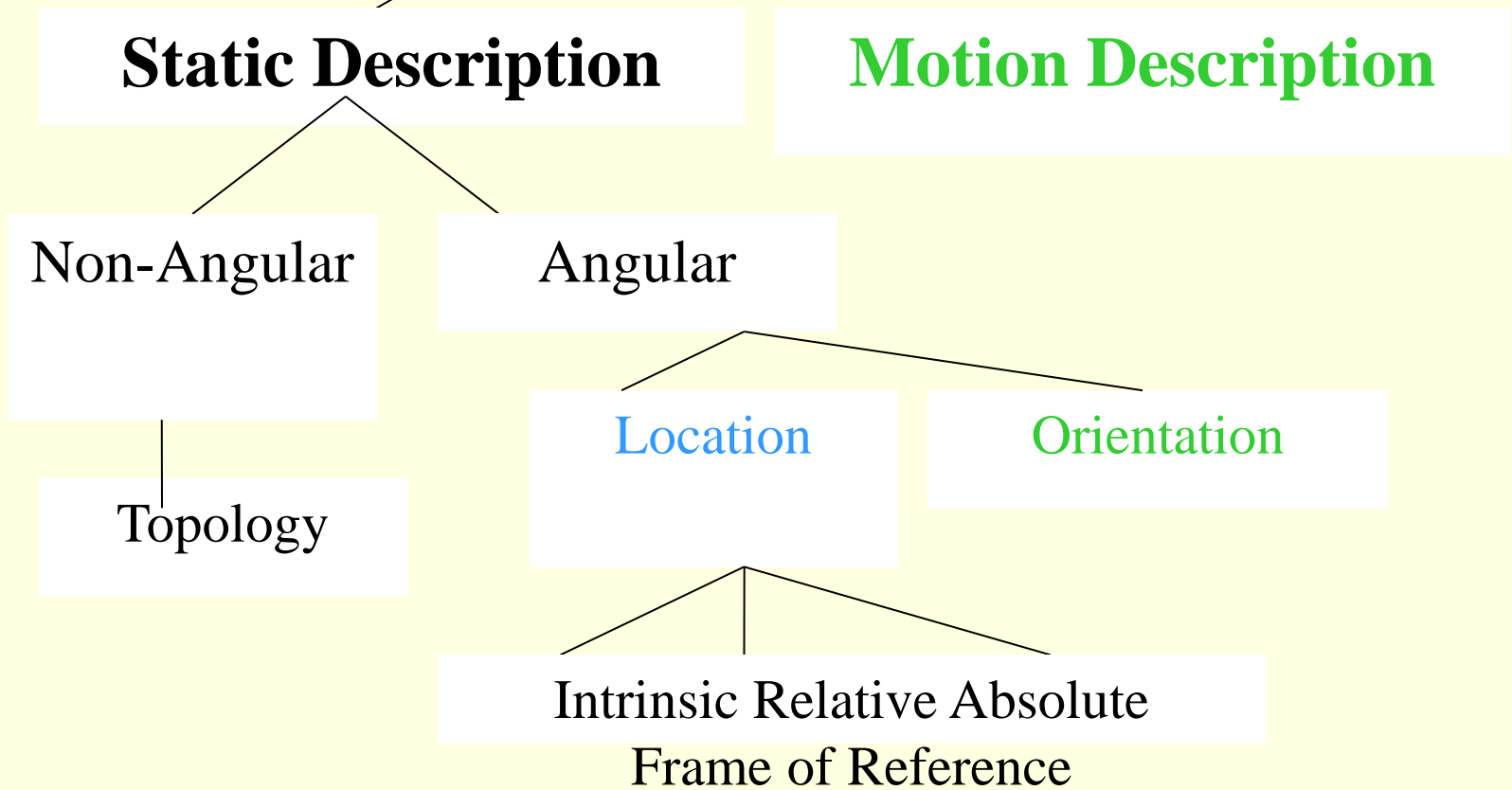
Dorothea Hoffmann (University of Manchester)

# Overview

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2. **Spatial Reference in Jaminjung**
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  - Orientation
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3. **Spatial Reference in Kriol**
  - Location
  - Orientation
  - Motion
4. **Conclusions**

# Spatial Descriptions



(Adapted from Levinson 2006: 3)

# Spatial Reference

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## 1. Location (Frames of Reference FoR):

Coordinate systems for expressing a spatial relationship between **Figure** and **Ground**

■ Intrinsic FoR: object-centred:

1) *The car is behind the house.*

■ Relative FoR: speaker/viewpoint-centred:

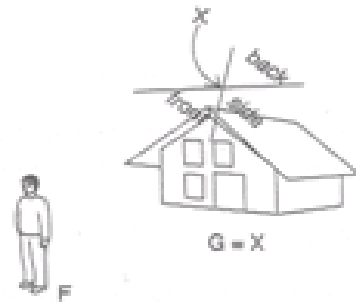
2) *The car is to the left of the house (from my viewpoint).*

■ Absolute FoR: horizontal/vertical fixed directions:

3) *The car is east of the house.*

### INTRINSIC

"He's in front of the house."



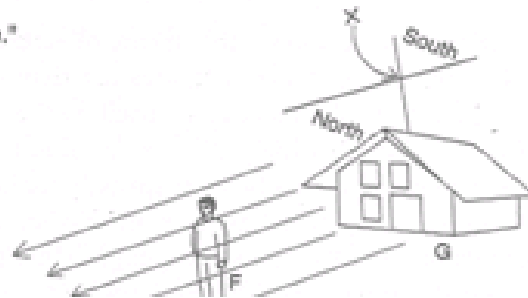
### RELATIVE

"He's to the left of the house."



### ABSOLUTE

"He's north of the house."



**Horizontal frames of reference [3]**

(Levinson 2003:40)

# Spatial Reference

## 2. Location vs. Orientation

- Terrill and Burenhult (2008): Orientation as additional strategy to/within FoRs
- **Location:** involves intrinsic sides of the **ground** locating the **ground** with relation to a **figure**:

4) *The **man** is left of the **tree**.*

- **Orientation:** involves the intrinsic sides of the **figure** or the configuration of the **figure** with respect to the **ground** or a **direction**

5) *The **tree** is at the **man's back**./ The **man** is facing **east**.*

# Spatial Reference

6) *He* is turned away from the *tree trunk*. *He* turns his back towards *Cfs*, so that *he* turns his chest towards the *wooden house*.

(Terrill and Burenhult 2008:106)

- Translation from Jahai – intrinsic sides of *figure* are **oriented** in relation to a *landmark* and two *reference points* (grounds)
- Clear difference to (7) where *figure* is **located** with respect to *landmark* and two *grounds* within an intrinsic FoR:

7) *He* is in front of the *tree trunk* and *Cfs* and he is behind the *wooden house*.



# Spatial Reference

## 3. Motion

- Functional features of orientation are parallel to those of motion descriptions
- Both (implicitly or explicitly) involve notion of orientation of intrinsic sides of a **figure** and a **reference point**
- **Reference point** can be implicit/explicit, absolute direction, **landmark** or deictic term
- **Orientation** is expressed through direction of gaze or intrinsic front/back of **figure** towards **reference point**
- **Motion** descriptions use terms for direction of motion towards/away from a **reference point**
- **Location** within FoRs locates **figure** with relation to a **ground** (can only be object or person)

8) *He is running towards the **wooden house** and away from **Cfs**.*

# Jaminjung and Kriol

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# Spatial Reference in Jaminjung

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- spoken in Victoria River Area of Northern Australia → non-Pama-Nyungan
- Approximately 50 remaining speakers

## Employs:

- intrinsic FoR for small-scale description
- absolute FoR for large-scale description
- orientational strategies for small-scale description
- motion descriptions parallel to orientation descriptions

# Location in Jaminjung

- Mainly employs **intrinsic FoR** for small-scale description

9) <i>bayirr</i>	<i>ga-yu</i>	<i>thangga-yin</i> , <i>janyung-bari</i>
supported	3sg-be.PRS	above-L.ABL next-QUAL
<i>langin</i>	<i>mugurn</i>	<i>ga-yu</i> <i>thamirri</i>
wood	lie	3sg-be.PRS below

‘one is leaning on top, another stick is lying underneath’  
(two brooms lying across each other)

(TIM203)

# Location in Jaminjung

- **absolute FoR** based on direction of water flow (horizontal terms *manamba/buya*) and verticality (*thamirri/thanggu*) for large-scale description
- The horizontal terms are only used to describe a location where the ground is implicit and also the deictic centre as illustrated in (10):

10) *brij* = *biyang gayu=ni*                      *manamba* \... *yinju* \ *manamba* \  
bridge=NOW 3sg-be.PRS=SFOC upstream                      PROX upstream  
'the bridge is upstream (from here), here, upstream'

(F04014, 17/06/98)

# Location in Jaminjung

- relative FoR is only used if the **ground** (such as the round-shaped *bottle*) does not have specific intrinsic (side) facets of its own

11)    *birang*            *ga-yu*                    *mawud-gi*  
      behind            3sg-be.PRS                glass-LOC  
      ‘it is behind the bottle’

(Schultze-Berndt, 2006: 109)

# Orientation in Jaminjung

two ways to express **orientation** of the intrinsic sides of the **figure** in static descriptions:

1. absolute **locational nouns** *buya* and *manamba* and ad-hoc landmark terms used in small-scale descriptions in combination with **expressions of direction of gaze** (12)

12) *nindu=biyang*                      *manamba*                      *mung*      *ga-yu.*  
horse-NOW                                  upstream                      look.at      3sg-be.PRS  
‘the horse is now looking upstream’

(D30128)

- terms are not employed to indicate location on a small scale for static descriptions

# Orientation in Jaminjung

2. set of coverbs of spatial configuration: *jarda* ‘turning one’s back’ and *wamam* ‘facing’, encoding orientation of a specific side of a **figure** with respect to the deictic centre or an explicit or implicit **reference point**:

<i>13) jarda</i>	<i>ga-yu</i>	<i>ngarlu</i>	<i>ngagaj-gi</i>
face.away	3sg-be.PRS	shade	back-LOC
<i>ga-yu</i>		<i>birang</i>	
3sg-be.PRS		behind	

‘he is turning his back (to me), a shade (tree) is behind his back’  
(Schultze-Berndt, 2006: 110)



# Motion in Jaminjung

- **Horizontal absolute terms** represent only orientation, but not location in small-scale descriptions
- also seem to be used exclusively for motion descriptions on a large scale to indicate the direction/goal/source of motion in combination with **vertical absolute terms**:

14) *manamba*    *ba-jga, laginy*    *ba-jga, jamurrugu na*    *jid*  
upstream    IMP-go turnoff    IMP-go down    now    go.down  
'go upstream, take the turnoff, then down downwards (i.e. towards the river)'

(Schultze-Berndt, 2006:108)

# Motion in Jaminjung

- Usually **ALL-** and **ABL.**marked placenames and landmark terms can also be used to indicate the goal or source of a motion event:

15) *manamba*, *juwud-gu*, *..nga-w-ijga*, **Katherine-bina**,  
upstream eye-DAT 1sg-FUT-go <place.name>-ALL  
'I will go upstream for my eyes (to have my eyes fixed), to  
Katherine'

(E16544, 14/05/98)

# Motion in Jaminjung

- two coverbs of oriented motion operating outside FoRs indicating direction of motion: *burduj* ‘go up’ and *jid* ‘go down’
- Example (16) shows the use of *jid* with *-ardba* to indicate the **orientation/direction** of motion away from the ablative-marked **source** *warragan*, whereas the absolute locational *thamirri* describes the **location** of the **goal** together with the allative-marked *gulban*

16) *jid*            *ga-dba-ny*        *warragan-ngunyi* *thamirri* *gulban-bina*  
go.down 3sg-fall-PST cliff-ABL                    below        ground-ALL  
‘he went down from the cliff down to the ground’

(D14023)

- cross-linguistically, specialised motion verbs or verb particles to express direction (“orientation”) of motion are common and this feature is also found in Kriol

# Spatial Reference in Kriol

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- Kriol is spoken by 20.000 people throughout the north of Australia
- number of different varieties showing slight lexical, grammatical and phonetic differences
- systematic comparison of these has not been undertaken yet
- terms *lodaun/haidap* ‘downstream/upstream’, for example, are only in use in the Victoria River variety of Kriol

# Location in Kriol

- uses **intrinsic** FoR to locate objects in space in small-scale descriptions
- example (17) shows the use of *biyainwei* with the **figure** *det gel* and *yu* as the **ground** incorporating intrinsic facets

17) *det gel slip -in*                      *biyainwei*      *langa yu*  
adj girl sleep-TR                      behind                      loc      2sg

‘The girl sleeps behind your back.’

(Lee, 2004: *biyainwei*)

# Location in Kriol

- **Absolute horizontal terms** used for large-scale spatial description

18) <i>Dei</i>	<i>bin</i>	<i>abum</i>	<i>sambala</i>	<i>klebabalamen</i>
3pl	PST	have:TR	some	wise men
<i>langa</i>	<i>det</i>	<i>najawan</i>	<i>kantri</i>	<i>sanraiswei</i>
loc	adj	another.one	country	east

‘There are some wise men in another country in the east’

(Kriol Bible, Matthew 1)

- In example (18) location of the **figure** is identical to the location of the **ground** whose location is specified by the horizontal absolute directional *sanraiswei*

# Orientation in Kriol

- also uses term for direction of gaze to indicate orientation of a figure  
*lukinat* ‘look at’, *bekbon* ‘turn back’
- In (19) orientation of the **cow’s** head is expressed with a verb of direction of gaze *lukinat* towards a **deictic reference point**

19) *buliki*                      *seim wei*                      *olabat*    *luk*                      *dijey,*  
cow                              same way                      3pl            look            this.way  
*luk-in-at* \                      *langa*                              *yu wei* \  
look-TR-at    loc                              2sg way

‘the cow looks in the same direction as them –this way, it looks in your direction’

(E13261)

# Orientation in Kriol

- Orientation can additionally be indicated through absolute terms
- Example (20) shows *ap* semantically incorporating an intrinsic feature in the **figure** used in small-scale description
- Orientation itself, however, is indicated with respect to an absolute (vertical) direction *ontop* (here provides the absolute location (vertical direction projecting from the viewer) not just direction)

20) *buligi bin jidan leig ap ontop la tri, buligi*  
cow PST stay leg upwards above loc tree, cow

‘we looked and a cow was there (with its) legs up (in the air) up in the tree, a cow!’

(Angelo, Denise Text 1: FLADWADA: BR & OR: Binjari: 23.2.98, line 75)



# Orientation in Kriol

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- no instances of the horizontal absolute terms used for the description of orientation found in the data so far (only indicate motion and instances where the location of the figure is identified in relation to an implicit ground)
- use of the terms for the direction of gaze seems parallel to the Jaminjung examples which might suggest a substrate influence on Kriol (in addition to absolute horizontal terms *lodan/haidap*)
- lack of examples for orientational use in Kriol suggests that orientation is indeed a rare notion of spatial reference in a cross-linguistic perspective

# Motion in Kriol

- use of the horizontal absolute terms in large-scale motion descriptions:

21) *im*      *go*      *laik*      *lodaun,*      *en*      *haidap*  
3sg      go      adv      downstream conj      upstream  
'He goes downstream and upstream'

(D13014)

# Motion in Kriol

- similar to Jaminjung’s specialised oriented motion coverbs, Kriol employs derived motion verbs indicating the direction/orientation of motion
- do not operate within FoRs but are exclusively used for motion descriptions and orient the moving figure towards its goal

22) *dis du boi bin dal-im im, gaman*  
pro two boy PST tell-TR 3SG come:IMP

*wi gu-dan iya la grik*  
1pl go-DIR adv loc creek

‘These two boys told him, “Come on, we are going down here to the creek”’.

(Munro, 2005: 132)

# Conclusions Jaminjung

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- mainly uses an intrinsic FoR to express **location** in small-scale description
- **location** is also expressed with vertical absolute terms used intrinsically
- horizontal absolute terms always indicate the viewer as ground and only express **orientation** not location in small-scale descriptions (ground then is always implicit not explicit)
- **orientation** is expressed by a special set of spatial coverbs and with absolute terms
- horizontal absolute terms seem to be used only for **motion** expressions and to indicate orientation
- relative terms are used only marginally

# Conclusions Kriol

- **location** expressed with both absolute and intrinsic terms
- there do not seem to be terms for *left/right* in regular use
- **orientation** expressed with horizontal and vertical absolute terms for large-scale direction in motion description and vertical absolute terms used intrinsically in small-scale description
- horizontal absolute terms seem to be used exclusively for **motion** expressions
- vertical absolute directionals seem to employ a distinction between **exclusive motion** use (*ap/dan*) and **static** as well as motion use (*antap/andanith*)

# Conclusions

- Motion descriptions Kriol example (23) show functional similarities between descriptions of orientation and motion:
- the **figure** is oriented toward the direction of motion just as in the orientation Jaminjung example in (24) where the intrinsic facets of the **figure** ('he') determine orientation through the **direction of gaze**:

23) *Mibala najalot bin gowin na raidap - raidap jangodan*  
1sg other PST go+in now RDP-right.up west  
'The others and I went all the way to the western side.'

(Sandefur 1982, lesson 32)

24) *linkid-ngunyi ga-yu; linkid-ngunyi*  
sidewards-ABL 3sg-be.PRS sidewards-ABL  
*mung gani-ngami gurrurrij*  
watch 3sg:3sg-see:PRS car

'he is at the side, from the side he is looking at the car'

(CHE350)

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