Motion Expressions in Newar: Prominence of Deictic Causative Verbs

This paper discusses motion expressions in Newar, a Tibeto-Burman language of Nepal, based on the data of a cross-linguistic experimental study of motion expressions. This experimental study focuses on *manner/path/deixis* frequencies in the linguistic coding of self-propelled motion events, and on *means/path/deixis* frequencies of caused motion events. Newar has two points to collect attention, especially in encoding of the caused motion events, in comparison with other languages investigated.

First, in Newar, *deixis* is a prominent category in encoding the caused motion, and there exist three deictic causative verbs which occupy the head position. The existence of three deictic causative verbs as the head is noteworthy. Second, Newar shows not only a high frequency of *deixis* coding in the head position but also a high frequency of *path* coding in the non-head position. As the crucial point of Talmy's (1991, 2000) dichotomy between satellite-framed languages and verb-framed languages is whether *path* is encoded in the main verb root or in the satellite position such as a bound affix, it turns out that Newar does belong to both of Talmy's dichotomy. Moreover, although Talmy (2000:64-67) proposes such systems as Split system, Parallel system, and Intermixed system to rescue languages that do not fit well into one of the dichotomy, Newar does not belong to any of these systems. Thus, Talmy's motion typology would benefit from taking these into account.

Newar uses the following three deictic causative verbs: (i) *chwaye* 'to make someone go', which functions as the head in the ballistic causative type, (ii) *yẽ:ke* 'to accompany' and (iii) *haye* 'to bring', both of which contain the meaning 'to accompany a person or an object to the goal'. As these deictic causative verbs function as the head, Newar shows a high frequency of *deixis* in the head position, shown in Figure 1.

Newar also shows a high frequency of *path* coding in the non-head position along with Hungarian and Mongolian. In Figure 2, Newar shows a high frequency of *path* coding, 1.65 per a clip in average. Likewise, Hungarian shows a high frequency, 1.69 in *path* coding per a clip and Mongolian shows a high frequency, 1.64 in *path* coding per a clip, while Japanese shows a low frequency, 0.78 per a clip. The fact that Newar shows such a high frequency in *path* coding is supported by the encoding of different grammatical constituents that denote the same *path* notion such as 'in' as in (1).

From the observation above, high frequencies of both *deixis* coding and *path* coding in Newar require a new approach to settle the problem in the Talmy's framework. Matsumoto (to appear) proposes another type of typological approach, separating *deixis* from the major *path* notions, categorizing the caused motion events into three subtypes (ballistic type, accompanying type and handling type), and examining the degree of occupation by the deictic verbs over these three subtypes. Matsumoto's framework clarifies the different functions between the deictic causative verbs and other *path* constituents in Newar. Newar data provide one way to conceptualize and encode motion events based on the speaker's point of view and by means of spreading *path* notion on the grammatical constituents other than the head position.

Figure 1.

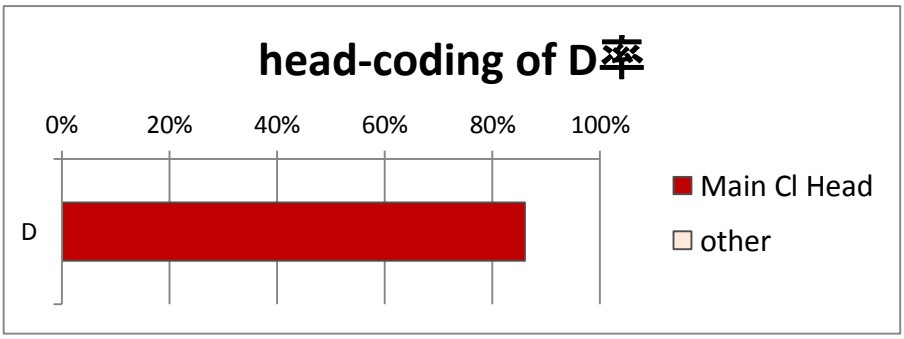
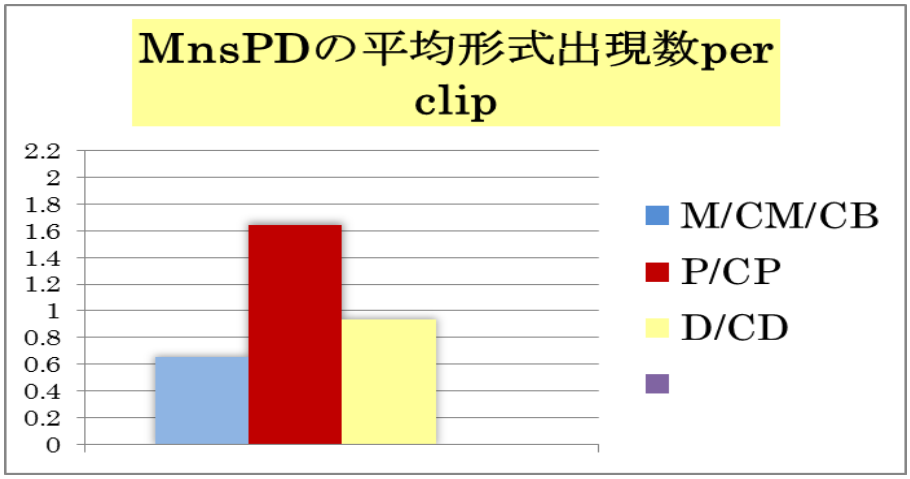


Figure 2.



<Example>

(1) ji-mha pāsɜ̃: bhakũ:gwārā thwānā:, sata:-yā lukhɜ̃:
1sg-ADN friend.ERG ball kick.NF rest.house-GEN door.ABL
dune du-chwala.
in in-go.CAUS.PD
My friend kicked the ball into the resthouse.

<References>

Matsumoto, Yo. (ed.) to appear. *Idoohyogen-ruikeiron no shoso (Aspects of typology of motion expressions)*. Tokyo: Kuroshio.

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Talmy, Leonard. 2000. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics, two volumes*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.