

CONCEPT OF WORD “FALL” WHICH RELATED TO BODY’S POSITION AND PLACE IN *SUNDANESE* IN NSM

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Abstract

This research aims to analyse the semantic structures of the verbs ‘fall’ in *Sundanese* starting with the position, condition and the place. This study applied the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory by Wierzbicka. The current study focuses more on describing the concept of the word fall which is related to the position of the fallen body part and its place in *Sundanese* through NSM. The current research uses data sources in the form of spoken speech and written data. Oral data in the study were obtained through the observation method on *Youtube* videos. While for written data, the data were taken from secondary data. The findings produce conclusion of verbs fall in *Sundanese* are described in details meaning from the positions, directions of movement, parts of the body that falls and the places where the end of the body part falls. The semantic primes of the verb fall are HAPPEN and DO. By using NSM theory, the phenomenon of the peculiarities of falling verbs in *Sundanese* can be solved easily. The semantic structure of the fall process verb can be explained based on the original meaning that constructs it.

Keywords: Fall, Sundanese language, NSM, and semantic primes.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one part of linguistics which has function as a means of communication tool and giving meaning so that in having communication, humans can understand each other. The meaning of words, phrases and clauses that structured into a good sentence is the result of the speaker's ideas regarding the relationship between grammar and meaning. Verb plays an important role in a sentence because they can be interpreted as an action or state (Blaszczak&Migdalski, 1993). Dixon (1991) states that the verb is the center of a clause that can refer to several activities with participants taking part of an action in that activity. Based on Givon (1984), verb is allocated into different types according to state, event, and action. The verb motion can consist of several subtypes such as verbs that are commonly used in everyday activities such as fall, pull and throw. In general, motion can occur due to circumstances and processes such as the force of gravity or weather and the actions of the participants themselves or due to other person or object around them. As a moving verb, fall verb can be interpreted as a movement event that is not controlled by the participant. Fall verb occurs because something or someone else causes the movement to occur. To fall means a person or something moves from top to bottom which moves an uncontrolled movement towards the ground. The role that moves is the intransitive subject while the subject slot is filled by the cause of the action. The movable role may often be a noun phrase determined by one of the forces of nature.

Local languages have a symbol system in the form of different vocabulary or lexicons. Kridalaksana (1983) states that one of the

characteristics of language is unique which means that each language has a unique system that does not have to exist in other languages. *Sundanese* language as one of the local languages spoken quite a lot in Indonesia is rich in words because in the *Sundanese*, there is a system of various languages according to the relationship between speakers that occurs in stages of language. At its level, the language of the *Sundanese* people is divided into three levels which is smooth, *loma* (ordinary), and rough. However, in simple terms, people divide the level into formal and informal language. The vocabulary meaning “fall” is one that has many forms and meanings in *Sundanese*. Starting with the position, condition and the place, *Sundanese* differentiates the word of fall in details. The fall position in *Sundanese* is not similar like in Indonesian or English. For example, fall means move downward in Indonesian or English. Meanwhile in *Sundanese* language, one word of falling can be represented in various words depending on the condition and position of the fall, starting from falling downward, forward, from above, from behind, and others has a very different lexical of vocabulary. Fall in *Sundanese* generally is ‘*geubis*’ for standard language and ‘*labuh*’ for non-standard language.

Similar topics in the previous studies are beneficial as the connection for the current research to find more effective ways in the process of teaching learning. Research of verbs using theory of natural semantic metalanguage has been conducted by Subiyanto (2011) which resulted that event process verbs are composed of two semantic primes, which are HAPPEN and DO of semantic primes that apply to EPVs which are triggered by another agent or one’s self. Event process verbs (EPVs) are a part of process verbs expressing non-moving events which

these verbs have certain semantic components and semantic structure that make them different from action or stative verbs. By this research, Event verbs were formed with the semantic primes of HAPPEN and DO. With the set of semantic primes which contained in the natural semantic metalanguage, the implication of the event verbs can be explained completely. Similar research done by Syahputra&Sinar (2018) by focusing on semantic field of verbs touch in Indonesian. Using the theory of Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM), the findings obtained four original meaning which holds a stake in touch verb construction which 'someone' and 'something' as the other component made up. From the findings, it was found that the meaning pattern of touch verbs which each touch verb has each element of the semantic primes. Also, parts that are used to touch, something that is being touched, the use of tools and the effect on the objects are important things that need to be considered to show the meaning of each derivative verb of the touch verb. Another research of verb 'touch' in *Batak Toba* language by Sianturi&Sembiring (2020) stated that both in Indonesian and in *Batak Toba* language are mostly similar of the touch verb's semantic structures. Nevertheless, there are verbs which are (mamisat) 'squeeze', (manompuk) 'pat' and (manggotil) 'pinch' that are diverse in the semantic structures. The semantic structure differences occur because the two societies are distinctive and the different use of the language is different. More complex research of touch verbs, Dewi et al (2016) has research of "*struktur dan peransemantikverbamenyentuhbahasa Bali*". Having analysed of lexicons 'do' and 'touch' in Balinese, the result of the research indicated that those lexicons consist of polysemy semantic primes of DO and HAPPEN which was recognized from the results of the action against the entity in the form of physical effects, both good and bad effects.

Move as verb is a fundamental event in an action. Mulyadi (1998b) states that movement is a direction change of entities can refer from one point to another. Furthermore, he states that in Indonesian this entity movement involves two semantic ideas: intended and accidental. A verb is generally limited from a complex meaning, not a simple one, so it can be said that a movement verb is an activity of moving from one place to another. Research of Verawaty et al (2020) stated that Based on the analysis Malay *Asahan* language of movement verbs, the moving entities are people, animals, plants and inanimate objects that if the agent is replaced, there are verbs which produce meaning that is not grammatical. The categorization of agentive movement verbs in Malay *Asahan* language is based on the similarity of their semantic components and analyzed using natural semantic metalanguage. Another research which supports the current study is from Subiyanto (2008) which focused on Non-agentive motion verbs in

Javanese. He proved that the fall verb is expressing moving events which is not controlled by an agent that in Javanese, the fall verb has big numbers of non-agentive motion verbs. Applying a theory of semantics proposed by Wierzbicka (1996) and designed to explicate the meaning, the result showed that the fall verbs in Javanese can be classified based on the direction and quality of motion by using semantic primes of MOVE, HAPPEN and DO.

Verbs of fall in *Sundanese* require a theory in order to be explained in detail the semantic components. Wierzbicka (1996) has an implication theory to clearly explicate meaning in Natural Semantic Metalanguage which comes from semantic primes. Based on the background issue stated, the current study aims to explain the concept of the word fall which is related to the position of the fallen body part and its place in *Sundanese* through semantics studies. The research questions of the problems studied in the study are as follows:

1. How is the semantic component in the word fall in *Sundanese*?
2. How is the semantic structure in the word fall in *Sundanese*?

The relationship between thoughts and speakers is an important aspect of meaning because it relates to the understanding among the speakers. Basically, there are types of verb that are state verb, process verb and action verb. To be able to see the differences among three types of verb, it is necessary to solve the issue by semantic studies. Saeed (2003) suggests that in order to solve the problem of rotating meanings, researchers are advised to use metalanguage theory. The part of semantics that specifically examines natural meaning is the study of natural semantics. Wierzbicka (1996b) believes that natural language is the only explanatory system in representing meaning. The theory can be modified according to the language of the speaker and also the representation of its meaning. The data contained in natural semantic metalanguage comes from original language that can be accepted and understood by all languages. The resulting paraphrase of meaning is easy for many people to understand, especially the native speakers of the spoken language because the paraphrases are framed in a metalanguage language that comes from original language (Mulyadi, 2012). Analysis of meaning through natural semantic metalanguage has a basic assumption that pivots in the original meaning set. Natural semantic linguistic theory is suitable for this research because it can categorize and interpret all lexical, grammatical, illocutionary and pragmatic meanings, including aspects of grammar and universal typology through a simple set of elements.

In the current study, the concept which is being studied is the concept of the original meaning and polysemy of a word. The original meaning is raised to answer the problem to interpret a word of rotating meaning while polysemy is used to describe

two sets of original meanings in a verb. The principle of natural semantic meta-language theory assumes that a sign cannot be analyzed into something that is not a sign that is not a thing itself (Goddard, 1994). A meaning cannot be expressed completely and clearly if it does not use semantic primes in analyzing meaning that does not need to be circular (Goddard, 1994 in SutjiatiBeratha, 2000). Meaning analysis in natural semantic meta-language theory is based on reductive paraphrase which implies the meaning of complex words to simple words so that both the native speakers of the spoken language and speakers of other languages find it easier to understand the meaning of the word. Mulyadi (2009) argues that the parameters of categorization and implication of all meanings can be determined through a simple set of elements by natural semantic meta-language theory. There are two key theoretical concepts that are important in this theory, namely: the original meaning and the polysemy as follows:

1. Semantic primes

The semantic primes are reflection and formation of thoughts that can be explicated from original language which is the only way to represent meaning (Wierzbicka, 1996b). The original meaning is a set of meanings that cannot change and have been inherited by children from birth or, in other words, the meaning of the first word of a word that does not easily change even though there are changes in culture or changing in times. Meaning implications must include the meanings of words that are intuitively related or at least have the same field of meaning. A set of default meanings as common measure to examine semantic differences between languages. Understanding the original meaning is expected to explain complex meanings to be simpler without having to go in circles. Below is the list of semantic primes.

Category	Primes
Substantives	I, you, someone, people, something/thing, body
Relational substantives	Kind, part
Determiners	This, the same, other-else-another
Quantifiers	One, two, some, all, much/many, little/few
Evaluators	Good, bad
Descriptors	Big, small
Mental predicates	Think, know, want, don't want, feel, see, hear
Speech	Say, words, true
Actions, events, movement	Do, happen, move
Existence, possession	Be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something), (is) mine
Life and death	Live, die
Time	When/time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment
Space	Where/place, here, above, below, far, near, side, inside, touch (contact)
Logical concepts	Not, maybe, can, because, if
Intensifier, augmentor	Very, more
Similarity	Like/as/way

Table adapted from Levisen and Waters 2017 and Goddard and Wierzbicka 2014.

2. Polysemy

According to the natural semantic metalanguage theory, polysemy is a form of a single lexicon originating from two different original meanings. This occurs because there is no compositional relationship between the exponents because they have different grammatical frameworks. Goddard (1996a) states that there are two types of discompositional relationships that are the strongest which is an entailment-like relationship and an implicational relationship. Similar relationships exist in the combination DO & HAPPEN and DO ON SOMETHING or SOMEONE & HAPPEN. For example of the combination DO&HAPPEN: X DOES something or something HAPPENS to X. Meanwhile example of the combination DO TO SOMETHING or SOMEONE & HAPPEN is X DOES something TO Y or Something HAPPENS TO Y.

2. METHODS

The current research uses data sources in the form of spoken speech and written data. Oral data in the study were obtained through the observation method on *Youtube* videos. While for written data, the data were taken from secondary data. The data that has been collected will be analysed using the matching method and the different method. The equivalent method is used to determine the classification of non-agentive motion verbs based on the direction of motion that causes which part of the body to be exposed and the final place of the direction of the motion. Meanwhile there were analysing method which applied to express the original meaning contained in *Sundanese* verbs. The definition of 'fall' in research includes the definition of 'fall' in humans. The definition of 'fall' which occurs in humans is not limited to a fall of the body, but something that occurs in other parts of the body which is affected, such as the head, neck, back, hands, arms or legs. Meanwhile, when a person falls, the direction of his movement shows where the human will fall, for example falling on the floor, on the ground, in water or other places. Below sentences are the explication examples of general 'fall' verbs in *Sundanese* for formal and informal situation.

Examples of explication 'geubis' and 'labuh':

"GeubisdimanaBapateh? Teukunanaon?"

(Where did father fall? Is he okay?)

X moves down

X moves down because of Y

X moves down because Y obstructs X

"Si Dadancenahadilabuhdina motor. Langsungdibawa ka rumahsakit"

(Someone said that Dadan had fallen from the motorbike. He was immediately taken to the hospital.)

X moves down

X moves down because of Y

X moves down because Y obstructs X

Y crashes X

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Through the current study, the analysis of the variation verbs 'fall' in *Sundanese* will be categorized based on which is related to the position of the fallen body part in that action of fall especially from the entire body part, head to foot. Table below shows the list of the verbs 'fall' in *Sundanese* which are discussed.

THE WORD LIST OF "FALL" IN <i>SUNDANESE</i> WITH ITS MEANING BASED ON PARTS OF BODY FALLEN	
<i>Tigedebrus</i>	Whole body fall(Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Ngagolepak</i>	Fall on your back (Satjadibrata, 2016). Falling and lying on his back and unable to stand up again (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Nambru</i>	Fall on your stomach (Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Tigulitik</i>	Fall rolling around (Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Tijungkel</i>	Tumbled over (Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Ngajengkang</i>	Fall on your back (Satjadibrata, 2016). Was standing or sitting and then fell backwards (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tikosewad</i>	Slipped from a relatively high place (Satjadibrata, 2016). Slipped from the bench (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tigeblag</i>	Fall or collapse for example a door or wall (Satjadibrata, 2016). Is a verb, regardless of the opening of the door or the whole window (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tigatruk</i>	Tripped over(Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Tikusruk</i>	Fall down (Satjadibrata, 2016)
<i>Titajong</i>	Fall because something that hits the tip of the toes from the front (Danadibrata, 2006). Kick himself with the toes (Satjadibrata, 2016).
<i>Tisoledat</i>	Fall because it was slippery.
<i>Ngagalosor</i>	Slip slowly (Satjadibrata, 2016). Slip on the road (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tigolorong</i>	Fall sliding (Satjadibrata, 2016)
<i>Tigolesat</i>	Fall and slipped again.
<i>Tigebus</i>	Someone falls down from above or jumping without a sound (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tigejebur</i>	Someone falls down from above or jumping and then a sound in the form of / <i>brus</i> / (Danadibrata, 2006).
<i>Tigejlig</i>	Fall down the stairs.
<i>Tijongjolong</i>	Fall down the stairs.
<i>Tijalikeuh</i>	Fall because both feet are not balanced because they step on one foot and become tilted (Danadibrata, 2006). Get sprained (Satjadibrata, 2016).

3.1 Fall on entire or whole body on the ground

As mentioned earlier that verbs 'fall' in *Sundanese* have a lot of interpretation of fall related to the position, place and body part fallen. In this section, the study discusses the verbs 'fall' which means moves down on someone's entire or whole body fallen and the final place of the action. The semantic structure of these fall lexicons can be explained by the following paraphrase.

Tigedebrus 'Whole body fall'

"*Urangmahkaget,*

kamariyatigedebrusdinapengkeurimah."

(I was shocked, yesterday someone fell behind the house.)

X moves down

X moves down on his/her entire parts of body

X moves down with sound on the ground

From the explication above, it can be indicated that there is a moving down action from one place to another on the ground. The body parts which is fall is someone's entire parts of body from the sound of the action when parts of body touch the ground. It means whole body parts hit the ground. Someone accidentally falls down from high place to down place which is believed as non-agentive motion

verbs. *Verbtigedebrus* has similar meaning of fall entirely of body parts which goes to the front direction or backwards position. *Ngagolepak* is *Sundanese* verb which means lying down backwards. Meanwhile, there is *nambru* verb which means fall down with chest down ward. Those two non-agentive motion verbs have similarity in body parts fallen although has different direction of falling. However, there are some people believe that *nambru* also means fall to the front by having foot touches the ground or the floor. The explication of verb *nambru* as follows:

Nambru 'fall down to the front'

X moves down to the front

X moves down on his/her knee

3.2 Fall on head down on hill, road and ground.

The verbs fall in *Sundanese* is varied. *Sundanese* verbs are very details in giving the description of the positions of falling down action and the final places of its landed. *Tigulitik* is one of the verbs that giving clear description of the position and places of the motion. *Tigulitik* means fall on incline plane hit on somebody's head first then roll adown around. The particular places can be hill or hillside. In addition, *Sundanese* also *hastijungkel* verb to define fall from vehicle such as bike or motorbike or ride animals such as horse or cow which also hits the head part of body.

Tigulitik 'Fall rolling around'

"*Kade, jalannamahlicin, seur nu tigulitik*"

(Be careful the road is slippery, many fall)

X moves down

X moves rolling down on his/her head

X moves rolling down on hill's road or hill side

Tijungkel 'tumbled over'

"*Benercenahayaurangtijungkel tina motor? Can ayaberitananingan*"

(Is it true that someone fell off from the motorbike?

How come there's no news yet?)

X moves down

X moves down from something

X moves down because Y does something to X

X moves down on his/her head

X moves down because X is tumbled over

From the explication above, the result can be seen that *tigulitik* and *tijungkel* have similar fall meaning of rolling down on somebody's head yet different places of falling down. *Tigulitik*'s places are on the road of hill or hillside which is incline while *tijungkel*'s places on flat street or ground because of vehicles or ride animals. Furthermore, *tijungkel* verb can be happened because something does something. In this case, something which is ride animals such as horse or cow do does something to someone so that that somebody is falling down.

3.3 Fall on chest down or back part of body on street and ground

The motion of falling down can be in the different positions and also diverse places. *Sundanese* verbs of fall differentiate related to front body or back part when somebody falls. *Tikosewad*, *tigatruk*,

tikusruk are motion verbs that describe someone falls because unbalanced his/her body parts which caused him/her falls on chest down or back part of the body. *Tikusruk* has general meaning of falling down to the front of somebody's chest down. *Tigatrak* has more meaning on action of falling down because get tripped of something or someone else. *Tikosewad* is more details on somebody falls down because there is something obstructs him/her such as rock, ball or other things to the ground. The semantic structure of these fall lexicons can be explained by the following paraphrase.

Tikusruk 'fall chest down'

"De, ulahamengdinataman, bilihtikusruk'

(Kid, do not play in the park, you will fall).

X moves down

X moves on chest down

Tigatrak 'fall down to the front because tripped over'

"Aduuuuh, nyeripisanieuindungsuku! Taditigatrak kana batu"

(Ouch, my big toe hurts! I fell hit by a rock).

X moves down

X moves to the front

X moves on chest down because of Y

because Y obstructs X

Tikosewad 'Slipped from a relatively high place because there is something obstruct somebody'

X moves down

X moves down unbalance

X moves down to the back

X moves down to the front

X moves on chest down or back part because of Y

because Y obstruct X

Based on the meaning components above, it states that the three words falling above have the same meaning but have different falling directions, positions and different reasons for falling. *Tikusruk* is described as falling forward on the body of the chest, while the *tigatrak* and *tikosewad* have the similarity of falling due to imbalance and due to something or someone else that causes a person to fall. But the difference between *tigatrak* and *tikosewad* is the direction of the fall, namely towards the front and towards the back. The difference in the direction of the fall causes different parts of the body that are hit by the ground, which is the front of the body, chest and back of the body, back.

3.4 Fall down sliding on back part in hill or hillside

Another uniqueness of *Sundanese* verbs which describing details the process of falling down included the body parts and the places. Fall down is a motion verb that also has sliding direction. *Tisoledat*, *ngagolosor*, *tigolorong*, and *tigolesat* have the meaning of sliding fall in details condition. The semantic structure of these fall lexicons can be explained by the following paraphrase.

Tisoledat 'fall because it was slippery.'

"Duh, bajukukotorleutaklumpureuy! Taditisoledat, jalannaleueurpisan!"

(Uh, my clothes are dirty with mud. I fell because the road was very slippery).

X moves down

X moves down on his/her bottom

X moves down on the road

X moves down because Y

because Y is slippery

Ngagolosor 'slip on the road'

"HP urangruksakeuy!"

Tadingaggolosorbasakeurlumpat"

(My cellphone was damaged from falling while running)

X moves down sliding

X moves down on his/her bottom

X moves down on the road

Tigolorong 'sliding down'

X moves down

X moves down on his/her bottom

X moves down on the road of hill or hillside

Tigolesat 'fall and slipped again.'

X moves down again

X moves down on his/her bottom

X moves down on the road

X moves down because Y

because Y is slippery

Having the four verbs data analysed, it can be identified that from *tisoledat*, *ngagolosor*, *tigolorong*, and *tigolesat*, the details meaning is gradually explained deeper from the parts of the body that landed, the precise places the motion occurred and reason why the motion happened. *Tisoledat* and *ngagolosor* have the meaning of fall down because of slippery road/floor although *ngagolosor* has longer process of sliding. Then *tigolorong* has details places which is in hill or hillside. Nevertheless, *tigolesat* has the same meaning of three fall verbs in *Sundanese* but giving more explication of falling for the second times.

3.5 Fall down on foot and ankle in hole, rice field, pool, and stairs.

The last part of body which have been mentioned are foot and ankle. *Sundanese* also has verbs feature for the differences fall verb which related to parts of body on foot and ankle. There are five *Sundanese* verbs exist to outline the process of falling on the positions, places, direction and parts of body landed on specific places such as in the hole, rice field, pool or stairs.

Tigebrus 'someone falls down from above without a sound on rice field or hole'

X moves down

X moves down without a sound

X moves down on his/her foot

X moves down on his/her feet in the rice field or hole

Tigejebur 'someone falls down from above and then a sound in the form of / brus /'

"Eta anu naonnya anu suaratigejeburdinapengkeur?"

(Who is that falling to the water behind the house?)

X moves down

X moves down with a sound
X moves down on his/her foot
X moves down on his/her feet in the rice field or pool
Tijongjolong 'fall down the stairs'
X moves down
X moves down on his/her foot
X moves down on the stairs
Tigejlig 'fall down of missing one step on stairs.'
"Lalaunanwae, kadetigejligdinatangga"
(Take it slow. Be careful of falling on the stairs)
X moves down
X moves down on his/her foot
X moves down on the stairs
X moves down on the stairs because X does miss one step on high stair
Tijalikeuh 'fall because both feet are not balanced because they step on one foot and become tilted'
X moves down
X moves down imbalanced
X moves down tilted or sprained
X moves down because of Y
X moves down because of Y does something to X
X moves down because Y twisted to X's other foot
From the explication above, *tigebrus*, *tigejbur*, *tijongjolong*, *tigejlig*, and *tijalikeuh* have meaning as fall on somebody's foot. However, those five *Sundanese* verbs have variety on how somebody's falling down on his/her foot. *Tigebrus* is defined as fall verb which has no sound when somebody falls into hole or rice field. On the other hand, *tigejbur* has sound when somebody falls down which means the power of falling down is quite strong until it has the sound. *Tijongjolong* and *tigejlig* have the same meaning which is fall from the stairs on somebody's foot. *Tijongjolong* gives more general explanation on falling down on foot and from the stairs. In the meantime, *tigejlig* has precise process how somebody is falling down which is she or he missed one stairs when that person wants to go higher from the upstairs. Last but not least, *tijalikeuh* is describe as motion verb which falls down because of another part of somebody tilted other foot until the person falls down. So, there is something else cause somebody to fall down in this case.

4. CONCLUSION

Basically, based on the results of the analysis using paraphrase or explication analysis techniques by supporting data for *Sundanese* verbs that contain semantic structures which is some of the non-agentive verbs in *Sundanese* verb of 'fall'. Verbs fall in *Sundanese* occur due to someone accidentally doing the action. The current study, the analysis of the variation verbs 'fall' in *Sundanese* will be categorized based on which is related to the position of the fallen body part in that action of fall especially from the entire body part, head to foot. The findings produces conclusion of verbs fall in *Sundanese* are described in details meaning from the positions, directions of movement, parts of the body that falls

and the places where the end of the body part falls. The semantic primes of the verb fall is HAPPEN and DO. By using NSM theory, the phenomenon of the peculiarities of falling verbs in *Sundanese* can be solved easily. The semantic structure of the fall process verb can be explained based on the original meaning that constructs it.

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