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An NSM-based Contrastive Semantic Analysis of Japanese “Nusumu” and “Toru” with Javanese “Nyolong” and “Njupuk”

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Abstract

In this research, the author aims to discuss the comparison of synonymou meaning in the verbs nusumu, toru in Japanese and the meaning of the verbs nyolong and njupuk in Javanese. The theory used in this study is the natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) approach (Anna Wierzbicka). The data of the use of nusumu and toru were taken from linguistic corpus data, while that of nyolong and njupuk were gathered from online sources. These four verbs share similar meanings of 'stealing and taking other people's things to use as your own.' Based on this analysis, the meanings shared between them include: (1) stealing someone's belongings secretly so that the owner does not know; (2) stealing or taking other people's property directly by force; (3) stealing other people's property by deception; (4) stealing other people's thoughts or writings (plagiarism); (5) stealing data or digital information; (6) stealing hearts or attention; (7) taking away or limiting the ability to move; (8) taking something to get rid of it; (9) taking choices (chosen study programs at universities, etc.); (10) taking over, representing, picking something up.

Keywords: Japanese, Javanese, Metalanguage, Natural Semantic, Verbs of Stealing and Taking.

Introduction

The Japanese verbs *nusumu* and *toru* have a similar meaning with *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese; they mean “to steal” and “to take”. Despite of the synonymy among them, these verbs are different in their use and distribution. The verb *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese and the verb steal and take in Javanese have a meaning in Indonesian that means taking things to be used as personal or private property. However, the nuances of the negative meaning are more dominant to the verb *nusumu* and *nyolong*.

When one compares the lexicon of complex physical activities (roughly, activities directed towards affecting a physical object) in different languages one quickly discovers that there are considerable differences here and also that in some cases these differences are apparently related to culture. For example, the presence in the Japanese lexicon of verb *nusumu* and *toru* if we contrasted with verb *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese there which means 'steal' and 'take' in Javanese. However, there is the verb *toru* 'to take' if you add the form *toshi o toru* which means 'to grow old/aging', likewise the verb *njupuk* in Javanese which means 'to take' will have a different meaning if there is the addition of “*njupuk anakku*” which means 'to pick up my son'. So, differences in the repertoire of verbs of physical activity can be easily found, and they can

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often be culturally revealing (Goddard and Wierzbicka, 2009).

In the NSM system, meanings are represented by means of extended explanatory paraphrases, known as explications. NSM semantic explications have to meet three conditions: (1) well-formedness, i.e. they have to be framed exclusively within the NSM metalanguage, as just described, (2) coherence, i.e. they have to make sense as a whole, and (3) substitutability, i.e. they have to make intuitive sense when substituted into their contexts of use, generate the appropriate entailments and implications, and so on. Besides, semantic primes provide a principled vocabulary for semantic-conceptual representation: clear, accessible, minimal, non-circular, non-ethnocentric (Al-Taie & Khattak, 2024). Because the vocabulary and syntax of NSM are recruited from ordinary language, it can achieve much greater clarity and accessibility than is possible with more technical and more obscure modes of representation. Because the metalanguage is minimal in size, one can achieve maximum resolution of semantic detail and, most importantly, ward off any possibility of circularity. It is or aspires to be a formal semantic metalanguage based on natural language (Wierzbicka and Goddard, 2009).

Literature Review

Research on the comparison of verbs in Japanese with several other languages has been researched by previous researchers, including; Contrastive semantics of physical activity verbs: ‘cutting’ and ‘chopping’ in English, Polish, and Japanese by: Goddard and Wierzbicka (2009), In all, nine verbs are examined: English *cut*, *chop*, and *slice*, Polish *ciąć* “cut”, *krajać* “cut/slice”, *obcinać* “cut around”, and *rąbać* “chop”, Japanese *kiru* “cut” and *kizamu* “chop”. Comparing the range of use of these verbs from a semantic point of view, we find differences in the prototypical motivations for undertaking the actions in question, in the kinds of objects to which they prototypically apply, the kind of instruments used, the manner in which the instrument is used, the way in which the object is affected by contact with the instrument, and in the potential final outcomes.

Then, Contrastive analysis of the verb *kangaeru* in Japanese with the verb *berpikir* in Indonesian by Putri and Soepardjo (2019). Verb data sources from the Yomiuri Shinbun online. Meanwhile, data sources in Indonesian are from Jawa Pos on line newspaper. The similarities and differences between meanings of Japanese and Indonesian verbs depend on the context where the verbs are used. If the verb is used in Japanese, the meaning of the verb can be more than one, while the meaning of verb is deciphered in Indonesian so it will mean permanent.

Research on the comparison between the verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Indonesia was initially researched by Osha Rasyid Ramada (2019) in his thesis entitled “analysis of the meaning of the verbs *ubau*, *nusumu* and *toru* as synonyms.” In general, the difference between these three verbs lies in the focus of the sentence. *Nusumu* focuses on the time the theft was committed, *ubau* focuses on the method and impact, while *toru* focuses on the object which was stolen. Meanwhile, what makes this research different is contrasting the synonymous meanings of the verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese with the meanings of *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese.

Methodology

This research uses a descriptive-analytical method, which means a method that describes and explain a phenomenon where something that is happening at the moment as it is used by scientific procedures to answer actual problems (Sutedi, 2011: 58, Mahsun, 2014: 254-256).

The Model of Analysis

We used Wierzbicka's (1996) Natural Semantic Metalanguage Approach (henceforth, NSM) in our study. It offers a technique that makes it possible to systematically describe all meaning in all languages through the use of reductive paraphrases. Semantic explications, or reductive paraphrases of this type, are composed of 65 semantic exponents, or semantic primes. These primes have combinatorial and intrinsic properties. Because of these characteristics—namely, that they cannot be reduced to a paraphrase and that they are lexicalized in all languages, including Japanese and Javanese—they are the best instrument for semantic-conceptual analysis. As a result, we used them as our analytical instrument. Given that verbs of human action, such as physical activity, were also covered in our study. As a result, we used them as our analytical instrument since those verbs are the depiction of human action. Because those verbs refer to physical activity, the meanings of those verbs were also a part of our study. In this study, we used the template that Goddard et. al. (2016) used to analyze physical verbs, which included the following section:

- a) Lexicosyntactic Frame. This section focuses on the similarities among all the verbs examined, including the presence of a human actor, locus (or locus?) expressions, and a simultaneous localized movement that is within the control of the human actor.
- b) Prototypical Scenario. A suggested scenario for human locomotion verbs in which a human actor is seen acting out a sequence of actions that, after a certain amount of time, causes him or her to move from one area to another. It might also entail identifying what Goddard et. al. (2016) referred to as Prototypical Motivation, which includes activities like pleasure, exercise, and escapes.
- c) Manner. Manner, as its name implies, is the description of the performance of verbs under analysis. Put another way, it entails highlighting the action's repetition while also outlining how the interactions between the various body parts have an overall impact on the body, resulting in posture or positional changes that cause the body to move forward.
- d) Potential Outcome. Potential outcomes describe the results of continuing an action for a sufficient amount of time and length of time. For example, they may describe the actor ending up somewhere different from where the action started or far from the starting point.

Analysis Procedure

To meet our objective, we proceeded as follows:

Stage 1: Consult Japanese monolingual online dictionaries including: <https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>, <https://ejje.weblio.jp/>, to identify semantic molecules in meaning provided by each dictionary. Doing so may help in understanding how the two verbs Nusumu and Toru are conceptualized and lexicalized, thus facilitating the creation of a semantic template for these verbs.

Stage 2: Propose NSM explication for the verbs 'Nusumu and Toru' using the semantic prime exponents in Goddard (2007).

Stage 3: Conduct a comparative analysis of differences and similarities detected in the explications proposed for those two Japanese Verbs.

Stage 4: Consult Javanese monolingual dictionaries including: <https://www.sastra.org>, <https://brainly.co.id>, and <https://www.sonora.id>, to analyze the Javanese counterparts and

identify semantic molecules and create a semantic template for Nyolong and Njupuk.

Stage 5: Propose NSM explications for ‘Nyolong and Njupuk’ using the semantic prime exponents proposed by Goddard (2007).

Stage 6: Analyze the semantic explication created for Nusumu and Toru in Japanese and Nyolong and Njupuk in Javanese to identify differences and similarities in conceptualizing these human action verbs.

Stage 7: Conclude the study by stating major findings and avenues for future research.

Result and Discussion

This section is dedicated to contrastively analyse the verbs nusumu and toru in Japanese and nyolong and njupuk in Javanese counterparts. The first part of the section focused on analyzing the Japanese verbs. This was done by consulting monolingual dictionaries, then proposing a comprehensive semantic explication of the two verbs using the semantic prime and semantic template we adopted. The second part of this section focused on the analysis of the Javanese counterparts where we adopted a similar method to the one used to analyse the Japanese verbs.

Stroll (v)	Definition	Dictionary
盗む nusumu	〈他人の物を取る〉 steal 《something from somebody》	https://ejje.weblio.jp/
取る toru	手の中におさめる。手に持つ。To hold in one's hand.	https://ejje.weblio.jp/

Table 1 Definition Provided for 盗む Nusumu and 取る Toru

The Meaning Relations of the Verbs *Nusumu* and *Toru* in Japanese

The Verbs *Nusumu* dan *Toru*

Examples:

1. 親の目を盗んだ夜食。

Oya no me o nusunda yashoku.

Late night snacks that steal parents' attention

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

2. 物を盗む人もいました。

Mono o nusumu hito mo imashita.

Some people also steal things

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

3. その場合は下葉を1枚取ります。

Sono baai wa shitaba o ichimai torimasu.

In this case, take the lower leaves of one fruit.

4. 人は誰もが年を取ります。

Hito wa dare mo ga toshi o torimasu.

Anyone will grow old.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

The verb *nusumu* in data (1) *nusunda yashoku* means 'to steal attention'. In data (2) the verb *nusumu*, *hito* 'one who steals'. In data (3) the verb *torimasu* which comes from the root word *toru* means 'to take' and in data (4) *toshi o torimasu* means 'to grow old.'

5. お金を盗まれました。

Okane o nusumaremashita.

My money has been stolen.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

6. 先輩達のカルテを含め、技術を盗んだ。

Senpaitachi no karute o fukume, gijutsu o nusunda.

The technology along with the senior's medical records were stolen.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

The verb *nusumaremashita* in data (5) means 'has been stolen' in passive voice, derived from the verb *nusumu* 'to steal'. In data (6), the verb *nusunda* means 'has been stolen' which comes from the verb *nusumu* 'to steal' which is the past form of the verb *nusumu*.

7. 今日の人々は気質ばかりを取る。

Kyou no hito wa katagi bakari o toru.

People nowadays just only care temperament.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>).

8. 私は素直に取った。

Watashi wa sunao ni totta.

I accepted obediently.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

9. だが食事は別々に取った。

Daga shokuji wa betsu betsu ni totta.

However, take the food separately.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

In data (7) there is the verb *toru* meaning 'to take' and in data (8) the past form is the verb *totta* meaning 'to have taken' and data (9) is also the past form of the verb *toru*, namely *totta* which

means 'to have taken'.

Stroll (v)	Definitio n	Dictionary
Nyolo ng	To steal; then do somethin g in secret.	https://kbji.kemdikbud.go.id/terjemahan/pados?Terjemahan%5Bcari%5D=nyolong
	Njupuk darbèkin g liyan tanpa tèmbug; Take others' belongin gs without saying a word;	Bausastra Jawa, Poerwadarminta, 1939:75 https://www.sastra.org/leksikon
Njupu k	Taking somethin g out of a place, for example taking money from a wallet without the owner's permissi on.	https://kbji.kemdikbud.go.id/terjemahan/pados?Terjemahan%5Bcari%5D=njupuk
	to take	Giri Sonta Course for Javanese (Lexicon), Bakker 1964: 286 https://www.sastra.org/leksikon

Table 2 Definition Provided for Nyolong and Njupuk

Relationship between the Meanings of the Verbs *Nyolong* and *Njupuk* in Javanese

The verbs *nyolong* dan *njupuk*

10. *Tiang niku meneng-meneng nyolong.*

That person secretly steals.

(<https://brainly.co.id>)

11. *Ana kucing loro nyolong kèju satugêl, ora bisa rujuk mungguhing pangêdume.*

Two cats stole a piece of cheese, they couldn't share it.

(<https://www.sastra.org/kisah-cerita-dan-kronikal/dongeng/252-dongeng-sato-kewan-winter-1923-1243>).

12. *Dèkwingi (wingi) Andi didukani Pak Guru amarga nyolong duwèké kancané.*

'Yesterday Andi was scolded by the teacher for stealing his friend's money.'

(<https://brainly.co.id>)

13. *Olèhe nyolong, nêdya dipangan ana ing kono.*

'Something he has got from stealing, was being eaten there.'

(<https://www.sastra.org/kisah-cerita-dan-kronikal/dongeng/252-dongeng-sato-kewan-winter-1923-1243>).

14. *Sing nyolong laweku, awit ora ana wong liya kang ngambah pakaranganku: mung kowe dhewe.*

There is no person who stole my rope, because no one else leaves my yard, but yourself.

(<https://www.sastra.org/kisah-cerita-dan-kronikal/dongeng/254-dongeng-wewulang-becik-winter-1889-868-jilid-2>).

In the data (10-14), the verb “steal” in Javanese means 'to steal (take an item or object without firstly asking permission from the owner of the item.)

15. *Aku njaluk tulung njupuk anakku nang sêkolah. Aku arêp lunga mênyang kantor.*

I ask for help to pick up my child at school. I want to go to the office.

(<https://www.sonora.id>)

16. *Aku njupuk jurusan Tari.*

I majored in Dance.

(<https://www.sonora.id>)

17. *Si Saliyah nuli mênyang gandhok arêp anjupuk êndhog.*

Saliyah went to the kitchen to get eggs.

(<https://www.sastra.org/kisah-cerita-dan-kronikal/dongeng/254-dongeng-wewulang-becik-winter-1889-868-jilid-2>).

18. *Bocah mau anjupuk gègitik kayu, sarupaning brahala banjur dirêmu.*

The boy was about to take a piece of wood to destroy all the statues.

(<https://www.sastra.org/kisah-cerita-dan-kronikal/dongeng/253-dongeng-wewulang-becik-winter-1889-868>).

Then, in data (15-16) the verb *njupuk* can mean 'take, pick up'. In data (17-18), the verb *anjupuk* is in the prenasal form (a term used to describe a consonant that is pronounced with an open nose before the pronunciation of the consonant) of *njupuk* which also has the meaning 'to take.'

Relationship of Meaning of the Verbs *Nusumu* and *Toru* Contrasted with the Verbs *Nyolong* and *Njupuk*.

For examples:

19. 親の目を盗んだ夜食。

Oya no me o nusunda yashoku.

Late night snacks that steal the attention of parents.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

20. 物を盗む人もいました。

Mono o nusumu hito mo imashita.

Some people also steal things.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

21. 人は誰もが年を取ります。

Hito wa daremoga toshi o torimasu.

Anyone will grow old.

(<https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>)

From data (19), it is found that the verb *nusunda* comes from the verb *nusumu* which means 'to steal (attention)'. Data (20) contains the verb *nusumu* which also means 'to steal'. From the synonym meaning relationship of the verbs *nusunda*, *nusumu* from data (19) and data (20) it is contrasted in the Javanese language verbs. The meaning can have similarities or the same meaning of the verb *nyolong* in Javanese as in data (10) and data (12) below:

22. Data (10) *Tiang niku meneng meneng nyolong.*

That person secretly stole.

(<https://brainly.co.id>)

23. Data (12) *Dèkwingi (wingi) Andi didukani Pak Guru amarga nyolong duwèké kancané.*

Yesterday Andi was scolded by the teacher for stealing his friend's money.

(<https://brainly.co.id>)

24. Data (15) *Aku njaluk tulung njupuk anakku nang sêkolah. Aku arêp lunga mênyang kantor.*

I ask for help to pick up my child at school. I want to go to the office.

(<https://www.sonora.id>)

25. Data (16) *Aku njupuk jurusan Tari.*

I majored in Dance.

Meanwhile, in data (22) *toshi o torimasu* means 'to grow old or age', its meaning cannot be replaced with the verb *njupuk* in data (15) and data (16) which means 'to take, or pick up' even though in data (21) there is a verb element. "Torimasu" comes from the root word *toru* which also means 'to take'.

Results of Relationship Analysis of the Meaning of the Verbs *Nusumu*, and *Toru* Compared with *Nyolong*, and *Njupuk* Meaning Steal and Take

Basically, the verbs *nusumu*, and *toru* mean 'steal and take' in Japanese. In general, from the relation of synonymous meaning or equivalent words. These two verbs can be contrasted with the verb forms in Javanese, namely the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* which have equivalent words with similar meanings or has the same meaning as 'steal' and 'take'.

However, in Japanese there is the verb *toru* 'to take' if you add the form *toshi o toru* which means 'to grow old/aging' (example data 22), likewise the verb *njupuk* in Javanese which means 'to take' will have a different meaning if there is the addition of *njupuk anakku* which means 'pick up my child' (example data 15).

Equivalent verbs *Nusumu* and *Toru* in Javanese

The meaning of the verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese is related to the relationship of synonymous meaning when contrasted with the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese, These four verbs have the meaning 'to steal and take. However, there is the verb *toru* 'to take' if you add the form *toshi o toru* which means 'to grow old/aging', likewise the verb *njupuk* in Javanese which means 'to take' will have a different meaning if there is the addition of *njupuk anakku* which means 'to pick up'.

In general, when contrasted with the synonymous meanings of the verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese with the verb forms *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese, the meanings can be aligned with these two meanings.

The contrastive analysis used in this research refers to one language, namely Japanese. Because the semantic meaning of the verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese are equivalent in meaning to the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese, it is necessary to define the meaning of the verbs which express the meaning of steal and take from each of these verbs. Because of this, the author will firstly explain in details the differences or similarities of the meanings of those verbs, seen from the relationship between the synonymous meanings of those four verbs, so that they can be more easily understood. The verbs *nusumu* and *toru* are based on obtaining meaningful data;

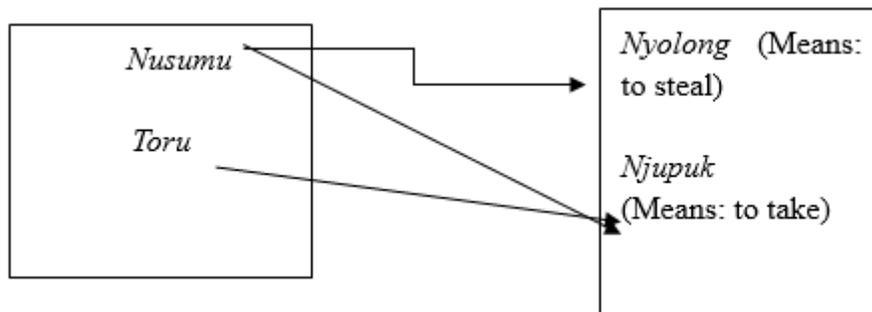
1. Stealing someone's belongings secretly so that the owner does not know;
2. Stealing or taking other people's property directly by force;
3. Stealing other people's property by deception;
4. Stealing other people's thoughts or writings (plagiarism);
5. Stealing data or digital information;
6. Stealing hearts or attention;
7. Taking away or limiting the ability to move.

8. Taking something with the intention of getting rid of it;

Meanwhile, for the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* based on obtaining meaningful data;

1. Stealing someone's belongings secretly so that the owner does not know;
2. Stealing or taking other people's property directly by force;
3. Stealing other people's property by deception;
4. Taking choices (choosing study programs at universities, etc.);
5. Taking over, representing, to picking up;
6. Stealing hearts or attention;
7. Taking away or limiting the ability to move.
8. Taking something with the intention of getting rid of it.

Based on the limitations of the data analysis above, we can see the following image;



Information: → (Contrastive techniques and comparison of synonymous meaning relations refer to Japanese verbs *nusumu* and *toru*?).

Conclusion

The verbs *nusumu* and *toru* in Japanese have a synonymous meaning relation with the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* in Javanese. The verbs *nusumu* and *toru* can be combined with the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk* which means 'steal' and 'take' in Javanese. However, there is the verb *toru* 'to take' if you add the form *toshi o toru* which means 'to grow old/aging', likewise the verb *njupuk* in Javanese which means 'to take' will have a different meaning if there is the addition of *njupuk anakku* which means 'to pick up'.

Acknowledgment

In this case, to collect Japanese language data related to *nusumu* and *toru*, the author used Japanese linguistic corpus data from the internet sourced at the following link: <https://tsukubawebcorpus.jp>. Meanwhile, the data of the verbs *nyolong* and *njupuk*, the author took data from <https://www.sastra.org>, <https://brainly.co.id>, and <https://www.sonora.id>, because there is no Javanese linguistic corpus data on the internet.

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