

SPATIAL EXPRESSIONS IN SEZO

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Abstract

*This paper examines the linguistic means employed by speakers of Sezo to encode object location, with particular attention to the expression of static spatial events. Static spatial expressions in Sezo fall into two broad categories: non-angular and angular spatial relations. Non-angular spatial relations are expressed through demonstratives, topographic terms, deictic serial verb constructions, and relational nouns, all of which serve a deictic function. Angular spatial relations, by contrast, are further divided into intrinsic and relative frames of reference. Intrinsic frames of reference are encoded by body-part terms, whereas relative frames of reference are expressed by lexical items such as *màni* 'right' and *wèjili* 'left'. Across both domains, these expressions function to locate a figure with respect to a reference entity, or ground.*

Key words: Sezo, deictics, serial verb constructions, topology, intrinsic, relational, frame of reference

1. Introduction

Sezo is an endangered Omotic language spoken in western borderland of Ethiopia, Oromia Regional state, Begi and Qondala districts. It belongs to the Non-Gonga group of Mao languages which comprises Bambasi-Diddessa (Northern) Mao, Ganza and Hozo. The community of Sezo speakers is estimated as numbering between 7000 and 10000 (Girma 2015). Typologically Sezo exhibits SOV and SV constituent orders in transitive and intransitive clauses, respectively. In phrase and clause structure, modifiers precede heads, possessor nouns precede possessed nouns and dependent clauses precede main clauses. Morphologically the language is agglutinating, as the morpheme boundaries in the word are clear-cut. It is a nominative-accusative language in which the nominative is always marked and the

accusative is marked differentially. The sound system consists of twenty-two consonants and five short vowels. Consonant gemination and vowel length are phonemic. The language has two-level tones which play a significant role in the lexicon. Their function in the grammar is very limited.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the strategies used by speakers of Sezo to express spatial relations. It is organized in five sections, the first one being an introductory section. Section two presents a short overview of cross-linguistic characterization of spatial expressions. Section three deals with the description of non-angular spatial deictics namely demonstratives, topographic deictics, deictic serial verb constructions and topological expressions. Section four describes those expressions within the domain of the angular spatial expression, i.e. frame of reference (FoR). The subdomain includes intrinsic frames of reference and relative frames of reference. Section five concludes the paper.

2. Spatial expressions: a cross-linguistic overview

Spatial cognition is one of the central aspects of human thought. It is a basic requirement for every animal with a fixed territory or home base (Levinson & Wilkins 2006: 1). Human beings are able to locate things because they have the ability to conceptualize space. According to Brown (2015: 89) human beings conceptualize space not as a single semantic domain, but rather as a broad semantic field with many distinct subdomains.

Broadly speaking, spatial events are categorized into two conceptual sub-domains: static (stasis or location) and motion (kinesis) (Levinson & Wilkins 2006: 3; Brown 2015: 89). Static spatial relations are divided into two further types: non-angular and angular. Non-angular relations describe spatial relation between a *figure* (the object to be located) and *ground* (the object with respect to which the location of the figure is specified) with no coordinate system to locate the *figure*. Such spatial relations include further subdomains such as topology, spatial deictics and toponyms (Brown 2015: 90). The subdomain of topology concerns spatial relations such as contiguity, proximity, distance, inclusion, overlap etc., which are expressed by words like *on*, *near*, *at* and *in* in English. Spatial deictics specify the location of an object directly in relation to the location of the speech participants, mainly the deictic center, which is usually associated with the location of the speaker (Diessel 1999: 36). Spatial deictics include demonstrative pronouns such as *this*, deictic adverbs such as *here*, and deictic verbs of motion like *come* (Levinson 1996: 360). Toponyms are place names (Levinson 1996).

Angular spatial events are those expressions where coordinate systems are used to locate an object (the *figure*) in relation to the *ground*. According to Levinson (1996: 365), these coordinate systems are called *frames of*

reference and are subdivided into three different types: intrinsic, relative and absolute. Intrinsic frame of reference is a coordinate system which relies on reference to the inherent or intrinsic part of the *ground* object. *The car is in front of the house* is an example of such expression because the reference object which determines the front of the house (i.e. the entrance or door) is an inherent or intrinsic part of the house. Relative or deictic frame of reference is a coordinate system which uses the bodily axes of the viewer such as *left* and *right* to locate the *figure* in relation to the *ground* as in, for example *the car is to my left*. Absolute frame of reference is a coordinate system which relies on a set of fixed bearings or cardinal directions, similar to north, south, east, and west. According to Levinson & Wilkins (2006: 22), absolute frames of reference are fundamentally geocentric, and languages often base terms for cardinal directions on fixed environmental features like mountain slopes, river drainage direction, wind direction or even a fusion of these sources.

Spatial expressions which describe motion of a *figure* almost always involve reference to a *ground* object (Levinson 2003: 68). Frequently they specify a location from which the figure is moving, also known as a source, or toward which the figure is moving, also known as a goal. Describing the location of one object in relation to another is a cross-linguistic property shared by nearly all languages (Brown 2015: 89). However, languages show considerable variations in the way they conceptualize and express spatial relations. First, within each of the sub-domains described above, there are quite variable conceptual distinctions across languages (Levinson and Wilkins 2006: 4). For instance, while topological relations encoded in some languages overlap, they crosscut one another in others. In the domain of frame-of-reference too, not all languages employ all the three sub-domains (intrinsic, relative and absolute) and each frame-of-reference may be expressed in quite different concepts across languages. Languages also show variations in the domain of motion because what is encoded in motion verbs may be different conceptually. In general, there is no one-to-one mapping of spatial relators across languages (Levinson and Wilkins 2006: 4).

The second area of variation is the way in which spatial concepts are encoded linguistically. In much of the literature, it is indicated that spatial distinctions are primarily expressed by adpositions in most languages (Brown 2015: 92). But some languages use spatial cases or inflected forms of nouns. Still others employ a combination of case and adpositions. The forms employed to express spatial relations in Sezo are described in the following sections.

3. Expressions of non-angular spatial relations in Sezo

Non-angular events describe the spatial relations which require no coordinate system to locate the figure object in relation to the ground object. These include deictic elements, toponyms and expressions of topological relations. These are described in the following sections and subsections.

3.1. Spatial deictics

Spatial deictics are linguistic elements whose function is to refer to objects, locations or persons apart from the speech participants (Diessel 1999: 36). The forms used to encode such deictic information in Sezo are demonstratives, topological deictic nominals and deictic serial verb constructions. These expressions are always accompanied by a pointing gesture. The following subsections are devoted to the description of the expressions.

3.1.1 Demonstratives

Demonstratives are spatial deictics whose primary function is to indicate the relative distance of an object, location or person vis-à-vis the deictic center (also called the *origo*), which is usually associated with the location of the speaker (Diessel 1999: 36). According to Dixon (2003: 62), demonstratives fall into three well defined types: nominal, local adverbial (locative) and verbal. The three types of demonstratives respectively refer to things, places and activities. In this paper, we examine only nominal and local adverbial (locative) demonstratives because they express spatial relations.

In Sezo, both nominal and local adverbial demonstratives are formed from three phonologically bound demonstrative roots, which specify the location of a referent on three degrees of distance with the location of the speaker as a deictic center. These are the proximal (very near) *hèt'*, the medial (near) *hí-* and the distal *hí:jàn-*. The three demonstratives do not inflect for number and gender because number is syntactically expressed and grammatical gender is not marked in the language. But they inflect for case when they perform pronominal function. In Sezo nominal demonstratives occur in two forms: adnominally in the form of demonstrative adjectives or pronominally in the form of demonstrative pronouns. When they are used adnominally to specify a co-occurring noun, they are procliticized to the noun they specify because they cannot stand alone as phonological words as in example (1a). If the specified (modified) head noun is preceded by one or more nominal modifiers, the demonstratives are attached to the leftmost constituent of the noun phrase as in (1b and 1c).

- (1) a. *hèt' = fá⁺ k'í-f* *há = há:ni*
 PROX=goat-NOM 1SG=PSM
 'This (proximal) goat is mine.'
- b. *hí = ká:w-⁺ fák'í-f* *wà nag = há:ni*
 MED=white-goat-NOM Wanagi=PSM
 'This (medial) white goat is Wanagi's.'
- c. *hí:jàn = nòm bé* *káw-⁺ fák'í-f* *wà ná g-há:á n-pí f-ké*
 DIST=two white-goat-NOM Wanagi-PSM-be.IRR-NEG
 'Those two white goats are not Wanagi's.'

In order to be used pronominally without a co-occurring noun, the bound demonstratives are marked by a set of case suffixes which otherwise are marked on nouns. The following table summarizes the case marked demonstratives:

Table 1. Pronominal Demonstratives of Sezo

	Proximal	Medial	Distal
NOM	<i>hèt'-f(é)</i>	<i>hí-f(é)</i>	<i>hí:jàn-f(é)</i>
ACC	<i>hèt'-à</i>	<i>hí-à</i>	<i>hí:jàn-à</i>
DAT/LOC	<i>hèt'-té</i>	<i>hí-té</i>	<i>hí:jàn-té</i>
COM/INST	<i>hèt'-nè</i>	<i>hí-nè</i>	<i>hí:jàn-nè</i>

The case-marked demonstratives in the above table make up a complete noun phrase and appear in any core or peripheral function in a clause. Consider the following examples:

- (2) a. *hèt'í-f* *?à l-má jì*
 PROX-NOM knowledge-man
 'This (very near one) is a teacher.'
- b. *hí-nè* *jé-dú⁺ k'ú-fi-jà* *mì:ns'-á:*
 MED-INST DEF-garlic-ACC chop-DCL
 'S(h)e chopped the garlic with this (near) one.'
- c. *jé-má:-f* *hí:jàn-à* *háw-n* *kw-á:*
 DEF-man-NOM DIST-ACC take-CVB1 come-DCL
 'The man brought that one'
- d. *jé-fá:-f* *hí:jàn-té* *giz-^lti:-á:*
 DEF-woman-NOM DIST-DAT/LOC money-give-2PL.IMP
 'The woman gave the money to that one'

1 The accusative case marker is missing here because it is optional on nouns. But notice that it is obligatory on pronouns and demonstratives (cf. Girma 2015).

As can be observed, each case-marked demonstrative in the above data functions as a nominal demonstrative by occurring as a sole constituent of the noun phrase. At this point, it is worth noting that the dative/locative case-marked demonstratives also render adverbial demonstrative function when they occur in the syntactic position of adverbs. This is because both dative and locative cases are marked by the same morpheme *-té*.

- (3)
- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------------------|---|
| a. | <i>jé-dòni-jà</i>
DEF-stool-ACC | <i>hèt'-té</i>
PROX-DAT/LOC | <i>ki-é</i>
put-2SG.IMP |
| | ‘Put the stool here (very near to the speaker).’ | | |
| b. | <i>jé-gàt-má:-f</i>
DEF-big-man-NOM | <i>hi-té</i>
MED-DAT/LOC | <i>kon-he:j-á:</i>
PRG-sleep-DCL |
| | ‘The old man is sleeping here (near the speaker).’ | | |
| c. | <i>jé-kwèmb-fá:-f</i>
DEF-old- woman-NOM | <i>hi:jàn-té</i>
DIST-DAT/LOC | <i>qò:nd-bij-á:</i>
calabash-break-DCL |
| | ‘The old woman broke a calabash there.’ | | |

In general, the nominal and verbal demonstratives described above are used to draw the hearer’s attention on objects or locations in the speech situation. In such contexts, they are always accompanied by a pointing gesture. However, there is a context in which the distal demonstrative *hi:jàn-* is used pragmatically to refer to something mentioned earlier in a discourse without an accompanying pointing gesture.

- (4)
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <i>hél=kù:l-té</i>
3PL=center/among-DAT/LOC | <i>bàk'il-f</i>
bone-NOM | <i>ʔiʔil-⁺dí:-jà</i>
one-person-ACC |
| <i>fi.nt'-kùl-té</i>
nose-center-DAT/LOC | <i>hèzz-á:</i>
hit-DCL | <i>jé-má:-nòmbá-f</i>
DEF-man-two-NOM |
| <i>hín-té</i>
where-DAT/LOC | <i>hín=héz⁺z-à:</i>
2SG=hit-INT | <i>hìŋk'-wá:-n</i>
like_this-say-CVB1 |
| <i>hél=ʔá:t-á:</i>
3PL=ask-DCL | | <i>hi:jàn=má:</i>
DIST=man |

‘Among them, the (thrown) bone hit one person on the bridge of his nose. Then the two men asked *that person* saying “where (which part of your body) does the bone hit”?’

The function of the distal demonstrative in example (4) is anaphoric because it refers back to the person mentioned earlier in the text; i.e. *ʔiʔil-⁺dí:-jà* ‘one person’.

3.1.2 Topographic deictics

Topographically-oriented locations, specifically locations at a higher and lower elevation are referenced in Sezo by dative/locative case marked deictic nouns² as demonstrated in the following examples:

- (5) a. *jé-má:-f* *káw-té* *pì-n* *kw-á:*
 DEF-man-NOM up.there-DAT/LOC rise-CVBI come-DCL
 ‘The man came from up there.’
- b. *je-fáw-mál-f* *dàf-té* *dù:l-* *pjàŋŋ-á:*
 DEF-young-boy-NOM down_there-DAT/LOC hyena- kill-DCL
 ‘The young boy killed a hyena down there.’

Like demonstratives, locative case-marked nouns referring to topography are always accompanied by a pointing gesture.

3.1.3 Deictic serial verb constructions

In addition to demonstratives, Sezo employs serial verb constructions (SVCs) to express direction to, or away from the deictic center. A serial verb construction is generally understood as ‘a monoclausal construction consisting of multiple independent verbs with no element linking them and with no predicate-argument relation between the verbs’ (Haspelmath 2016: 296). SVCs in Sezo consist minimally of two contiguous verbs clustered together without any morphological or tonal linker. Compositionally they are asymmetrical because they consist of verbs of unequal status – a major verb from an open class and a minor verb from a semantically restricted class (such as motion and posture verbs). The major verb mostly occurs in V₁ position and acts as the semantic head of the whole construction. The minor verb mostly occurs in V₂ position and renders valency changing, aspectual and deictic function (cf. Girma 2021 for discussions on valence changing and aspectual SVCs).³ In Sezo, components of a SVC do not have a predicate-argument relation.

In deictic SVCs, the major verb may be transitive or intransitive. The minor verb is either *kw(a:-)* ‘come’ or *j(á:-)* ‘go’. The two verbs respectively encode direction towards and direction away from the deictic center.

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- 2 One would ask whether these forms are locative adverbs. But I consider them as nouns in terms of category because they inflect for case like nouns. But functionally they perform locative adverbial function.
 - 3 This categorization is based on Aikhenvald’s (2006: 22-28) semantic types of asymmetrical SVCs.

- (6) a. *jé-má:-⁺tú:-f* (*há=k'àns-té*)
 DEF-man-PAU-NOM 1SG=direction-LOC
sès'-hél=sès'-kw-á:
 weed.VN-3PL=weed-come-DCL
 'The few men weed the weed (wild plant) to where I am.'
- b. *mà:wá-géb-à:* *zins'-kwa:-mò*
 people-ASS-VOC **run-come-2PL.IMP**
 'You people, run towards here.'
- c. *hét'-máli-f* *twà:ns-* *kò:l-j-á:*
 PROX-boy-NOM spear- **throw-go-DCL**
 'This boy threw the spear away.'
- d. *jé-má:-f* *túm-té-hìnk'-* *káp'-jà:-f-té*
 DEF-man-NOM wall-DAT/LOC-like.this **look-go-REL-LOC**
 'When the man looked at the wall (away from the deictic center) like this, ...'

In example (6a) and (6b), the verb *kw-* 'come' reflects that the direction of the 'weeding' and 'running' events is towards the place the speaker is located; i.e. the deictic center. In (6a), the omission of the adverbial noun phrase *há=k'àns-té* (1SG=direction-LOC), is possible as in (6b) because its function is carried out by the deictic minor verb *kw-* 'come'. In the same way, the verb *j(á:-)* 'go' in examples (6c) and (6d) express that the direction of the events, 'throw' and 'look' is towards the deictic center. Cross-linguistically, SVCs with minor verbs expressing directionality are attested in many languages (cf. Aikhenvald & Dixon 2006; Johnson 2014: 211).

The verbs in V_2 position of the above examples cannot be treated as auxiliaries with deictic function because they are not fully grammaticalized elements. They can occur as sole lexical predicates outside SVCs as demonstrated in the following examples.

- (7) a. *jé-má:-⁺tú:-f* *sès'-sès'-ín* *hél=kw-á:*
 DEF-man-PAU-NOM weed.VN-weed-CVB1 3PL=come-DCL
 'Having weeded (pulled out) the weed, the few men came.'
- b. *mà:wá-géb-à:* *zins'-nè* *kwa:-mò*
 People-ASS-VOC **run.VN-COM/INST** **come-2PL.IMP**
 'You people, come running.' (lit. come with running)
- c. *jé-máli-f* *twà:ns-* *kò:l-ín* *j-á:*
 DEF-boy-NOM spear- throw-CVB1 go-DCL
 'Having thrown the spear, the boy went.'
- d. *jé-má:-⁺tú:-f* *mà:máné* *hél=j-à:*
 DEF-man-PAU-NOM yesterday 3PL=go-REL-DAT/LOC
 'The few men went yesterday.'

As can be observed, the function of the verb *kw-* ‘go’ in (7a) and (7b) is not deictic. It is the head of the clauses respectively preceded by a converb with clause chaining function, (i.e. *sès’-ín* (weed-CVB1)) and a verbal noun with adverbial function (i.e. *zìns’-nè* run.VN-INST). The same is true for the verb *j-* ‘go’ in examples (7b) and (7c). This substantiates that structures presented in example (6) are deictic SVCs.

3.1.4 Expressions of topological notions

As mentioned earlier, topology is one of the subdomains of the non-angular references of location. The term refers to the sort of spatial relations covered by the English prepositions *in, at, on, near, between* etc. (Levinson 2003: 34). In general, topological expressions are related to the concepts of coincidence, contact, containment, contiguity and proximity. In many languages, these are primarily coded in adpositions or case, but there are also languages in which topological relations are entirely coded in nouns or verbs (Brown 2015: 90). Sezo is one of those languages in which topological references are expressed by means of locative case-marked nouns. The following table presents the set of nouns in which topological references are coded.

Table 2. Terms of topological concepts

Nouns	Lexical meaning	Case-marked counterparts	Locative meaning
<i>sìnsì</i>	‘interior’	<i>sìns-⁺té</i>	‘in’ (containment)
<i>kù:lì</i>	‘middle, center’	<i>kù:l-⁺té</i>	‘between’ (containment)
<i>zìgì</i>	‘vicinity’	<i>zìg-⁺té</i>	‘near’ (proximity)
<i>ʔónkì</i>	‘top’	<i>ʔónk-⁺té</i>	‘on’ (contact)
<i>gábì</i>	‘underneath’	<i>gáb-⁺té</i>	‘under’ (containment)

In order to render topological reference, the locative case marked terms syntactically occur after the noun that refers the (the *figure*). Consider the following examples:

- (8) a. *jé-ʔi:m⁺má:nzì-f* *jé-k’ad-sìns-⁺té*
 DEF-cattle-baby-NOM DEF-swamp-interior-DAT/LOC
kó(n)-dó:k’-á:
 sit\PRG-stand-DCL
 ‘The calf is standing in the swamp.’
- b. *jé-máli-f* *hán=dè:-málá-kúndì* *kù:l-té*
 DEF-boy-NOM 3SG.POS=mother-boy-PL middle-DAT/LOC
kó(n)-hé:-á: [hè:já]
 sit\PRG-sleep-DCL
 ‘The boy is sleeping between his brothers.’

c.	<i>jé-kànsí-f</i> DEF-granary-NOM	<i>kjà:-zìg-té</i> house-vicinity-DAT/LOC	<i>ʔít-é</i> exist-DCL
	‘The granary is (exists) near the house.’		
d.	<i>jé-dòŋlì-f</i> DEF-bird_of_prej-NOM	<i>ʔi:ns-⁺ʔóŋk-⁺té</i> tree-top-DAT/LOC	<i>kò-á: [kòwá:]</i> sit-DCL
	‘The bird of prey sits/sat on a tree.’		
e.	<i>k’ò:ndí-jà</i> calabash-ACC	<i>sjá:ns’-gàb-té</i> bed-underneath-LOC	<i>ki:-é [kijaé]</i> put-2SG.IMP
	‘Put the calabash under a bed.’		

Some of the nouns in the above examples may encode more than one spatial meaning. For instance, the term *ʔónkì* ‘top’ which refers to a spatial relation encoded by the English ‘on’ can also mean ‘over’ or ‘above’.

(9)	<i>jé-dòŋlì-f</i> DEF-bird_of_prej-NOM	<i>ʔi:ns-⁺ʔóŋk-⁺té</i> tree-top-DAT/LOC
	<i>pà:ns-in-kjàns-á:</i> fly/jump-CVB1-pass-DCL	
	‘The bird of prey flew over the tree (lit. flew and passed over the tree).’	

The terms in the above examples may also be treated as expressions of intrinsic frame of reference because some of them may refer to an inherent part of the ground like body part terms described in §4.1. below. However, they are treated separately because many of them do not refer inherent parts of a body and semantically convey topological meanings like coincidence, contact, containment, contiguity and proximity.

4. Expressions of angular spatial relations (spatial frames of reference) in Sezo

Spatial frames of reference (FoR) are coordinate systems which allow for the spatial region to be projected from a referential entity enabling the description of the location of an object with respect to it. As stated in §2, frames of reference have three subdomains: intrinsic, relative and absolute frames of reference. The following subsections deal with the strategies used by Sezo speakers to express intrinsic and relative frames of reference. Expressions used for absolute frame of reference have not been attested.

4.1. Expressions of intrinsic frame of reference

Intrinsic frame of reference is a system based on an inherent part of the ground (Levinson 1996: 366). It is used by referring to a part of a *ground* object in order to provide the location of the *figure* object. The following are expressions employed by Sezo speakers to make intrinsic frame of reference.

4.1.1 Body part nouns

In Sezo, body part terms are used to express intrinsic spatial references by extension of meaning. In order to be used for locative reference, they need to take the locative case marking suffix *-té*. The following table presents a list of body part nouns and their locative case marked counterparts.

Table 3. Body part terms and their locative meaning

Body part nouns	Primary lexical meaning	Case-marked counterparts	Locative meaning
<i>jénni</i>	‘face, forehead’	<i>jén-⁺té</i>	‘in front of’
<i>sù:ns’i</i>	‘back of body’	<i>sù:ns’-té</i>	‘behind’
<i>kjàǝfi</i>	‘bottom of body’	<i>kjàǝ-té</i>	‘under’
<i>kólli</i>	‘flank of body’	<i>kòl-té</i>	‘at the side of’

So as to perform locative function, the locative case marked body part terms syntactically occur following the nouns referring to the *ground* object forming a possessive construction. While the noun refers to the *ground* object as a possessor, the locative case marked body part noun is a possessed noun. The following examples illustrate such spatial expressions.

- (10) a. *hèt’=fák’k’i-jà* *jé-kjà:-jén-té* *t’úf-é*
 DEF=goat-ACC DEF-house-face-DAT/LOC tie-2SG.IMP
 ‘Tie the goat in front of the house.’
- b. *wánáǝi-f* *?ùmán-sú:ns’-té* *kó(n)-fó-á:*
 Wanagi-NOM Usman-back-DAT/LOC sit\PRG-walk-DCL
 ‘Wanagi is walking behind Usman.’
- c. *jé-gàt-mà:-tù:-f* *jé-?i:ns-kjàǝ-té*
 DEF-big-man-PAU-NOM DEF-tree-bottom.of.body-DAT/LOC
kó(n)-hél=kòw-á:
 sit\PRG-3PL=sit-DCL
 ‘The few men are sitting under the tree.’
- d. *jé-fá:-tú:-f* *jé-kjà:-kòl-té*
 DEF-woman-PAU-NOM DEF-house-flank-DAT/LOC
kón-hél=k’às’-á:
 PRG-3PL=work-DCL
 ‘The few women are working at the side of the house.’

4.2. Expressions of relative frame of reference

Relative frame of reference is a coordinate system projected outwards from the geometry of the body of the observer (Brown 2015: 91). Sezo speakers

describe a relative frame of reference by using terms *màni* for ‘right’ and *wèṅili* ‘left’ which establish a coordinate system based on the observer’s body. Illustrative examples are provided below:

- (11) a. *wànági-f* *há=màn-té* *kó(n)-kò-á* [*kòwá:*]
 Wanagi-NOM 1SG.POS=right-DAT/LOC sit|PRG-sit-DCL
 ‘Wanagi is sitting to my left.’
- b. *há:-f* *wànág-wèṅil-té* *kó(n)-há=kò-á:*
 1SG-NOM Wanagi-left-DAT/LOC sit|PRG-sit-1SG=DCL
 ‘I am sitting to the left of Wanagi.’

Like the relational nouns and body part terms described in §3 and §4.1, respectively, the terms used for relative frame of reference necessarily need the dative locative case marker *-té* to specify the location of the *figure* in relation to the *ground*.

5. Summary

The paper presented a brief account of spatial expressions in Sezo. Spatial expression in Sezo can be divided into expressions of non-angular and angular spatial relations. It has been discussed that non-angular spatial relations are expressed by spatial deictics like demonstratives, topographic terms, deictic serial verb constructions and topological expressions. Demonstratives distinguish between proximal, medial and distal locations with the speaker as a deictic center. They do not indicate as to where the location of the addressee is. Topographic terms make distinction between two distal locations referring to high and low altitude. Serial verb constructions convey directional information. Topological spatial events such as containment and contact are expressed by locative case marked nouns. Expressions of angular spatial relations are of two types: intrinsic and relative. Intrinsic spatial relations are encoded in locative case marked body-part terms. Relative spatial notions are marked by locative case marked nouns that establish a coordinate system based on the observer’s body.

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Abbreviations and symbols

↓	downstep	LOC	locative
1	first person	MED	medial
2	second person	NEG	negative
3	third person	NOM	nominative
ACC	accusative	PAU	paucal
ASS	associative plural	PL	plural
COM	comitative	POS	possessive
CVB1	converb marker one	PRG	progressive
DAT	dative	PROX	proximal
DCL	declarative	PSM	possessum
DEF	definiteness marker	REL	relative
DIST	distal	SG	singular
IMP	imperative	V ₁	verb in slot one
INST	instrumental	V ₂	verb in slot two
INT	interrogative	VOC	vocative
IRR	irrealis	VN	verbal noun

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