Ordering typology

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SVO

THE WORLD ATLAS OF LANGUAGE STRUCTURES ONLINE

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Feature 81A: Order of Subject, Object and Verb

This feature is described in the text of chapter 81 Order of Subject, Object and Verb by Matthew S. Dryer cite

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× 81A: Order of Subject, Object and Verb

Submit

Values

●	SOV	564
●	SVO	488
●	VSO	95
◆	VOS	25
◆	OVS	11
◆	OSV	4
●	No dominant order	189

Typology: 3 kinds of explanations

(1) a. functional: language serves a certain function, its properties reflect this

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(1) a. functional: language serves a certain function, its properties reflect this

b. formal: language is a computational system that assembles symbols by certain rules, and universals reflect the properties of the system

Typology: 3 kinds of explanations

(1)
a. functional: language serves a certain function, its properties reflect this
b. formal: language is a computational system that assembles symbols by certain rules, and universals reflect the properties of the system
c. parsing: the listener must decode the message, and universals may reflect the need to decode the message

Meaning and ordering

(2) a. 1 + (2 x 3)

Meaning and ordering

(2) a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)

Meaning and ordering

(2) a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1

Meaning and ordering

(2)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

Meaning and ordering

(1) a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3) a. 123

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132
c. 321

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132
c. 321
d. 231

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132
c. 321
d. 231
e. 213

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132
c. 321
d. 231
e. 213
f. 312

Meaning and ordering

(1)
a. 1 + (2 x 3)
b. 1 + (3 x 2)
c. (3 x 2) + 1
d. (2 x 3) + 1

(3)
a. 123
b. 132
c. 321
d. 231
e. 213
f. 312
g. 3! (= 3 x 2 x 1)

(4) Subject verb object

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)

b. S (V O)

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488
c. 11

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488
c. 11
d. 25

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488
c. 11
d. 25
e. 95 !

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488
c. 11
d. 25
e. 95 !
f. 4 :)

(4) Subject verb object

a. S (O V)
b. S (V O)
c. (O V) S
d. (V O) S
e. V S O*
f. O S V*

(5) WALS (1187)

a. 564
b. 488
c. 11
d. 25
e. 95 !
f. 4 :)

(6) Left right asymmetry:
Semantically strange orders are only found after the lexical head

Greenberg's Universal 20

Universal 20. When any or all of the items (demonstrative, numeral, and descriptive adjective) precede the noun, they are always found in that order. If they follow, the order is either the same or its exact opposite.

(7) a. those four thick books

(7) a. those four thick books

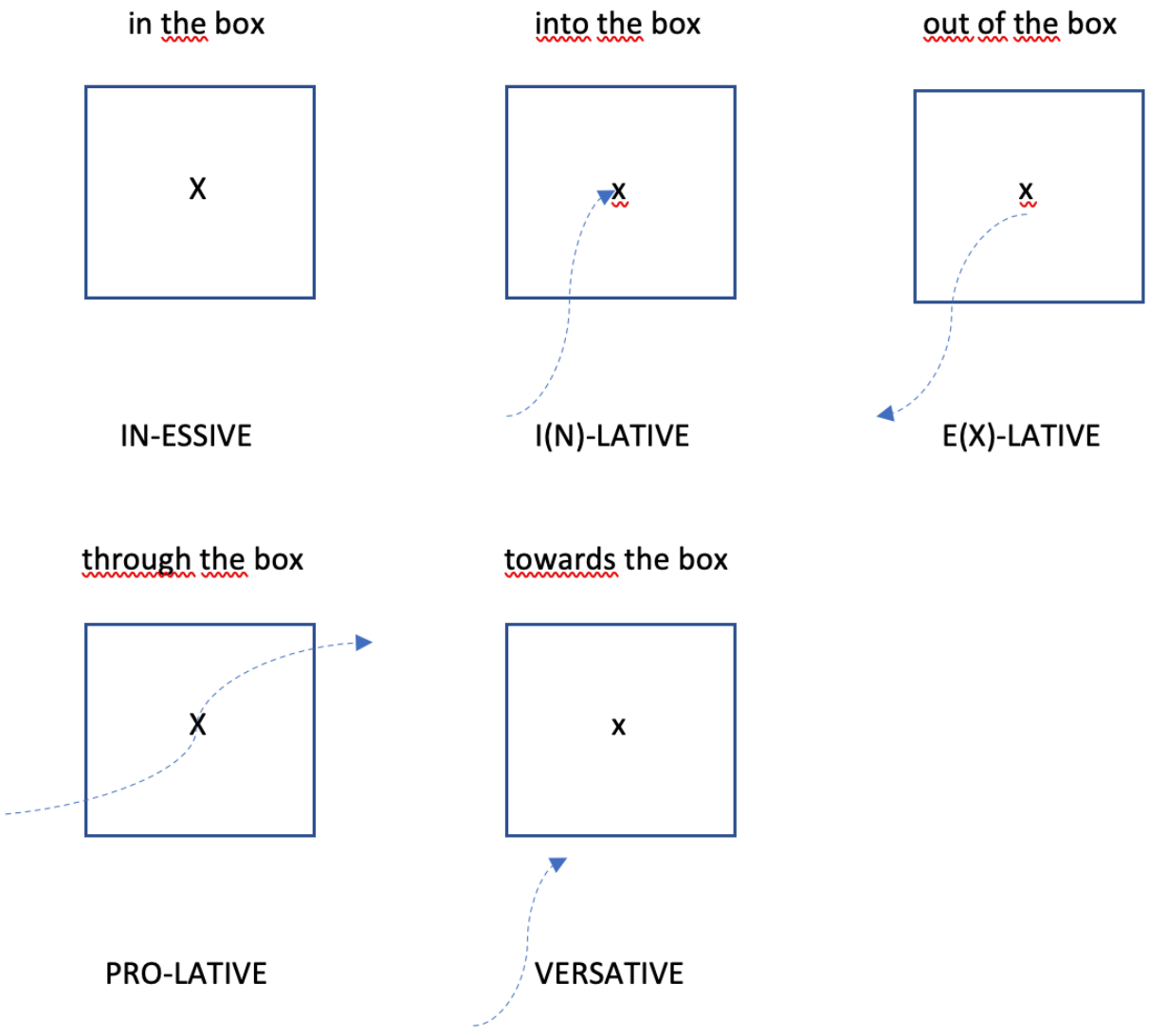
b. qimmi-t qaqurtu-t marluk taakku
dog-pl white-pl two those
‘those two white dogs’

(7) a. those four thick books

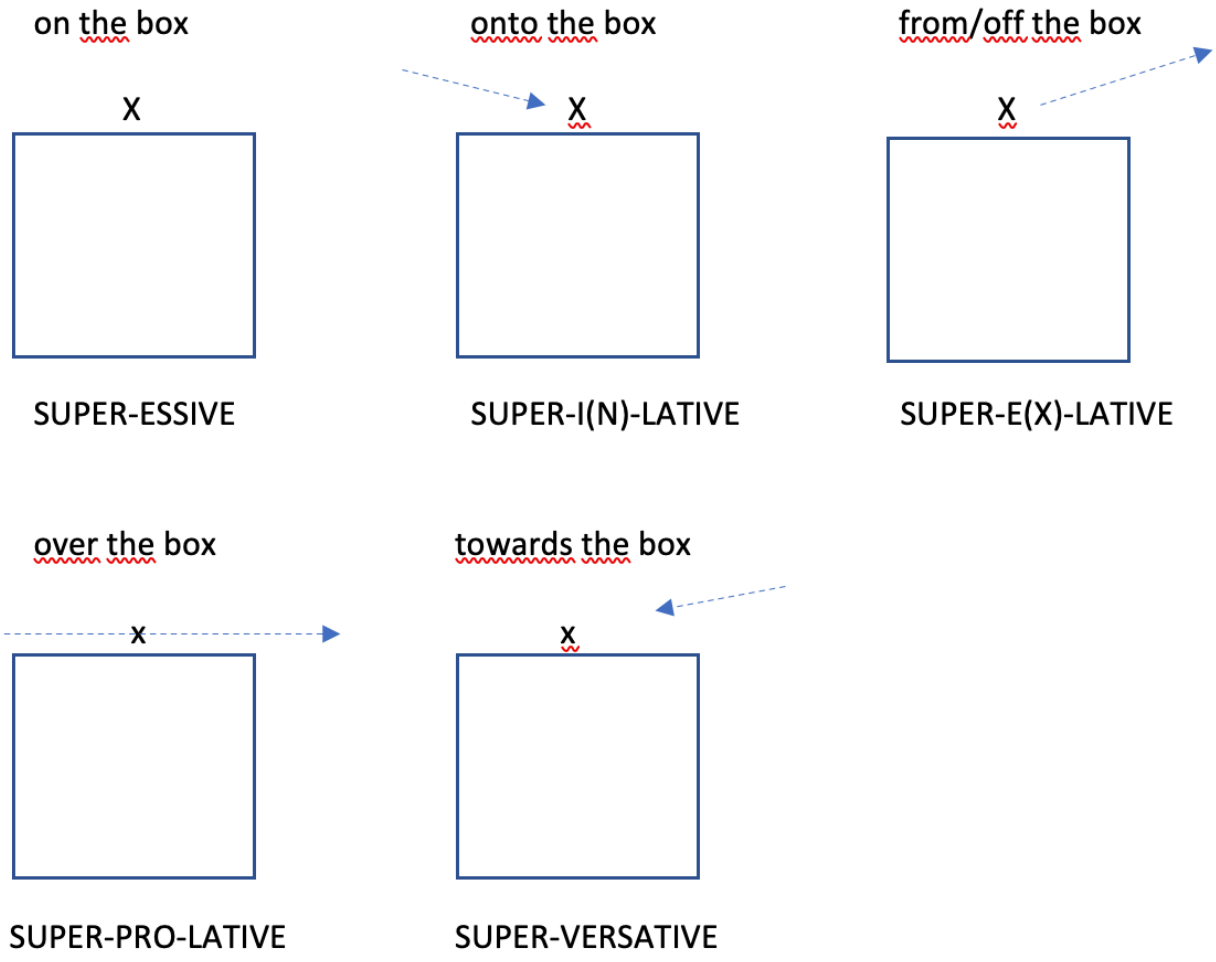
b. qimmi-t qaqurtu-t marluk taakku
dog-pl white-pl two those
‘those two white dogs’

c. mabuku mara mathatu manene muno
book those three big very

locations and paths



location and paths



(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)

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b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)
b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(9) a. PATH (PLACE N)

(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)
b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(9) a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. from (under the-box)

(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)
b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(9) a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. from (under the-box)
c. through (under the-box)

(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)
b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(9) a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. from (under the-box)
c. through (under the-box)
d. to (under the-box)

(8) a. location = noun + place marker (*in, on, at, above, ...*)
b. path = location + path marker (*to, from, via...*)

(9) a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. from (under the-box)
c. through (under the-box)
d. to (under the-box)
e. 1 + (2 x 3)

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)

b. PATH (N PLACE)

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

If language was like math...

(10) Macedonian

b. Pantcheva (2011: 36)
Odam **na** **kaj** parkot.
I-go DAT LOC park
'I am going to the park.'

c. **Kaj** parkot sum.
LOC park.DEF am
'I am at the park.'

(11) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(12) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...

If language was like math...

(10) Fongbe

b. Kɔ̀kú wá **sín** àxì mɛ́
Koku came from market in
'Koku came from within the market.'
c. Kɔ̀kú ɖó àxì mɛ́
Koku at market in
'Koku is in the market.' (Lefebvre and Brousseau, 2002, 325)

(11) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(12) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...

If language was like math...

(10) Dutch

(56) Het vliegtuig is *vlak* onder de brug door gevlogen
The airplane is right under the bridge through flown
'the airplane flew right under the bridge'

(11) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(12) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...
c. Dutch, ...

If language was like math...

(10) Waris

b. Deuv-**ra-m** Luk-**ina-m** ka-va ga-v.
house-LOC-DAT Luke-LOC-DAT I-TOP go-PRES
'I go to Luke's house.'

c. Ovla deuv-**ra** ka-**ina** dihel-v.
knife house-LOC I-LOC exist-PRES
'The knife is at my house' (lit. at the house at me).

(11) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(12) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...
c. Dutch, ...
d. Waris, ...

If language was like math...

(10) Iatmul

b. gay-**koot-ba**
house-DAT-LOC
'to the house'

c. gay-**ba**
house-LOC
'in the house'

(11) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(12) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...
c. Dutch, ...
d. Waris, ...
e. Iatmul (rare)

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(11) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...
c. Dutch, ...
d. Waris, ...
e. Iatmul (rare)
f. unattested

If language was like math...

(10) Expectations

a. PATH (PLACE N)
b. PATH (N PLACE)
c. (PLACE N) PATH
d. (N PLACE) PATH
e. N PATH PLACE – ?
f. PLACE PATH N – ?

(11) Reality

a. English, Czech, ...
b. Fongbe, ...
c. Dutch, ...
d. Waris, ...
e. Iatmul (rare)
f. unattested

(12) Left right asymmetry:
Semantically strange orders are only found after the lexical head

Stack sorting algorithm

(13)
a. In the assumed structure, assign highest number to the element that needs to be semantically processed first
b. Any surface order must map onto the sequence ...-3-2-1
c. What is stack sorting?

link

References