

SCRAMBLING AND THE LACK THEREOF IN URALIC OV

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VON DER GABELENTZ, *DIE SPRACHWISSENSCHAFT*, 1901



H. Georg Conrad v. d. Gabelentz.

† in der Nacht zum 11. December 1898.

“It would be a great asset if a single property of a language could tell us which other properties that language has!”

“Aber welcher Gewinn wäre es auch, wenn wir einer Sprache auf den Kopf zusagen dürften: Du hast das und das Einzelmerkmal, folglich hast du die und die weiteren Eigenschaften [...]”

verb-finality → word order variability (scrambling)

(Corver & van Riemsdijk 1997, Fukui 1993, Fukui & Takano 1998, Haider 2010, Haider & Rosengren 2003, Koster 1999, Neeleman 1994, Neeleman & Weerman 1999, Reuland & Kosemeijer 1993, Saito & Fukui 1998)

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Induction based on mainly German, Dutch, and Japanese



First falsification based on mainly Uralic

RESEARCH QUESTION AND ANSWER

Central Question

Are verb-final languages homogeneous
concerning word order variability?

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concerning word order variability?

Answer

No.
New proposal:
obligatory subject movement (EPP) determines word order variability

ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE RESEARCH

Auxiliary question

What is the structure of the non-scrambling verb-final language South Sámi?

Answer: A verb-final language with EPP and auxiliary raising.

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Auxiliary question

Is a verb-final language still verb-final when it features verb-medial orders?

Answer: Yes, via underlying verb finality.

The first descriptive and structural typology of postverbal elements in verb-final languages.

ROADMAP

- 1 Research question
- 2 Core notions
- 3 Scrambling in OV languages
- 4 Non-scrambling in OV languages
- 5 The structure of South Sámi
- 6 Conclusion

Core notions

SALIENT PROPERTY: VERB POSITION

Not verb-final, VO

The fluffy cat gently **nudged** *the yarn ball* under the sofa yesterday.

S X V O X X

SALIENT PROPERTY: VERB POSITION

Not verb-final, VO

The fluffy cat gently **nudged** *the yarn ball* under the sofa yesterday.

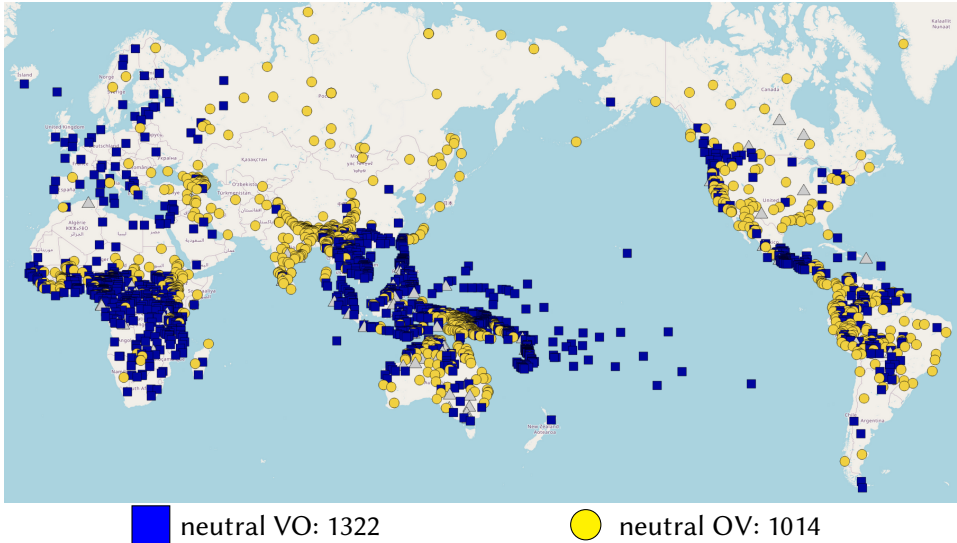
S X V O X X

Verb-final, OV

Yesterday the fluffy cat *the yarn ball* under the sofa gently **nudged**.

X S O X X V

DISTRIBUTION OF VERB POSITIONS



WHAT IS WORD ORDER VARIABILITY?

1 Which surface word orders?

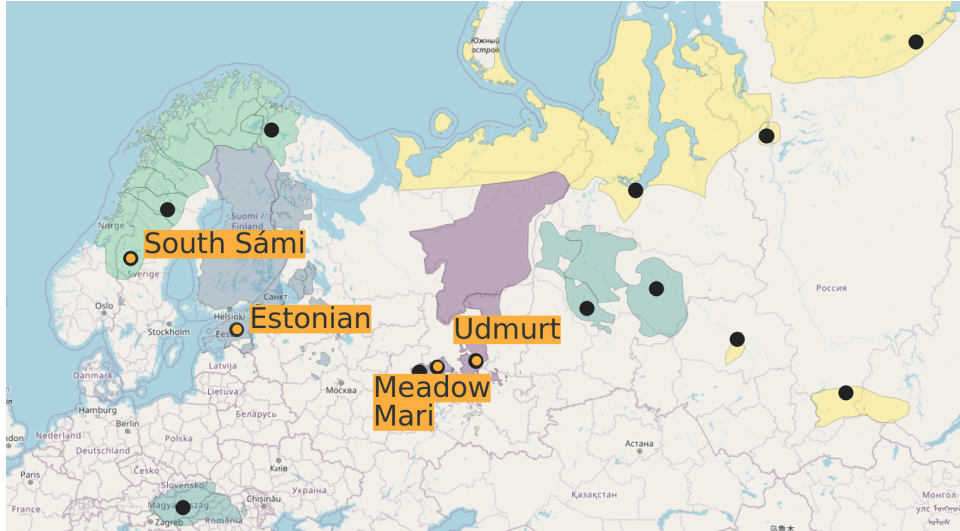
2 What is the function and underlying structure?

- (1) a. I change the word order with ease.
S V O X
- b. The word order I change with ease.
O S V X
- c. I change with ease the word order.
S V X O
- d. *The word order with ease I change.
O X S V

METHOD

- theory-driven item construction
 - elicitation of judgements and comments in interviews
- ⇒ original data
-
- core set: Uralic OV languages

TARGET LANGUAGES: URALIC OV LANGUAGES



Scrambling in OV languages

SCRAMBLING IN OV LANGUAGES: CLAIMS

Claim 1

A-Scrambling (altruistic movement to the left) is a typologically valid concept.

Claim 2

There are OV languages without A-scrambling.

Claim 3

A high structural subject position in a functional projection constrains A-scrambling.

verb-finality → word order variability (scrambling)

(Corver & van Riemsdijk 1997, Fukui 1993, Fukui & Takano 1998, Haider 2010, Haider & Rosengren 2003, Koster 1999, Neeleman 1994, Neeleman & Weerman 1999, Reuland & Kosemeijer 1993, Saito & Fukui 1998)



What is scrambling?

WHAT IS SCRAMBLING

Claim 1

A-Scrambling (altruistic movement to the left) is a typologically valid concept.

- **comparative concept** *A-scrambling* with previous OV languages as template
- many definitions of “scrambling” (Dutch vs. Japanese literature)
- “scrambling” as any reordering
⇒ *every* language has scrambling

COMPARATIVE CONCEPT: A-SCRAMBLING

- (2) Differentiating A-scrambling from other kinds of word order variability
 - a. **altruism: no IS-marking of the fronted element**
⇒ excludes topicalisation, contrastive fronting etc.
 - b. OS order is possible
⇒ excludes mere adverbial intervention
 - c. multiple scrambling
⇒ no dedicated, singular functional projection

COMPARATIVE CONCEPT: A-SCRAMBLING

(3) Surface A-scrambling pattern

$X_{\text{unspecified}} - Y_{\text{unspecified}} - O_{\text{unspecified}} - S_{\text{focus}}$

TRADITIONAL CONCEPT: A vs. \bar{A} (VAN URK, 2015; LOHNINGER, P.C.)

A properties	\bar{A} properties
no IS effects	IS effects
Local	Long-distance
Restricted to nominals	Not restricted to nominals
No reconstruction for Principle C	Reconstruction for Principle C
No Weak Crossover	Weak Crossover
New antecedents for anaphors	No new antecedents for anaphors
No parasitic gap licensing	Parasitic gap licensing

TABLE: Properties of A vs. \bar{A} -movement

CONVERGING EVIDENCE: EXTENSION OF BINDING DOMAIN

(4) Estonian anti-reflexive possessive pronoun *tema*

- a. Kindlasti on **tema** **poeg** iga isa armastanud.
surely AUX.PRS.3SG 3SG.POSS son[:NOM] every.PART father.PART love.PTCP
'Surely his_x (specific, unnamed person's) son loved every_i father.'
int. but not available: 'Surely his_i son loved every_i father.'
- b. Kindlasti on iga isa **tema** **poeg** armastanud.
surely AUX.PRS.3SG every.PART father.PART 3SG.POSS son[:NOM] love.PTCP
'Surely his_i son loved every_i father.'
(spuriously available: 'Surely his_x (specific, unnamed person's) son loved every_i father.'

PROBLEM: CROSSLINGUISTIC INAPPLICABILITY

(5) Udmurt possessive suffixes, no quantifiers

- a. Пинал-**ЫЗ** атай-**З-Э** яратэ.
child-3SG.NOM father-3SG-ACC love:PRS.3SG
'His child_i loves every father_j.'
- b. Атай-**З-Э** пинал-**ЫЗ** яратэ.
father-3SG-ACC child-3SG.NOM love:PRS.3SG
'His child_i loves every father_j.'

PROBLEM: CROSSLINGUISTIC INAPPLICABILITY

- (6) Udmurt – Why not use quantifiers? Object–Non-object asymmetry with distributive quantifier *kot'kud*
- a. kot'kud vorgoron
Q man
 '**every** man'
 - b. kot'kud nunokezly
Q child.ABL
 'to **every** grandchild'
 - c. kot'kud knigajez
Q book.ACC
 '**whichever** book'

A-SCRAMBLING IN URALIC OV

- A-scrambling pattern:

- Estonian
- Udmurt
- Meadow Mari

(7) Estonian

Varem on lapsele kingitusi **MÜÜJA** kinkinud.
earlier AUX.3SG child:ALL present:PL.PART clerk[:NOM] give:PTCP

‘Earlier, A CLERK gave presents to the child.’

A-SCRAMBLING IN URALIC OV: MEADOW MARI

(8) a. [C: Who told stories to the children recently?]

Ikeche yalizhte yochalan yomak-vlakym KOVA oylysh.
recently village.IN child.DAT tale-PL.ACC grandma tell.PST1.3SG
'GRANDMA recently told stories to the children in the village.'

b. ??Yomak-vlakym ikeche KOVA yalizhte yochalan oylysh.
tale-PL.ACC recently grandma village.IN child.DAT tell.PST1.3SG

c. ??Yomak-vlakym yochalan ikeche KOVA yalishte oylysh.
tale-PL.ACC child.DAT recently grandma village.IN tell.PST1.3SG

PREFOCAL LOOSENING

- A-scrambling OS order without S-focus, but V-focus

(9) Zhukaze Ishkaryn perepechse kotkud nunokezly
yesterday Izhevsk.IN perepech.Px.3SG.ACC every grandchild.Px.3SG.DAT

pesjanaj vajyny BYGATE.
grandmother bring.INF could

‘Grandmother COULD bring the perepech to every grandchild in Izhevsk yesterday.’

A-SCRAMBLING BEYOND URALIC: STANDARD DARGWA

- (10) Standard Dargwa (Nakh-Daghestanian, Caucasus; Dzhuma Abakarova, p.c.)
Muruis dax sawyat **XUNUYIN** **bitxib**.
man.OBL yesterday present.ABS woman.ERG gave
'Yesterday A WOMAN gave the man the present.'

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man.OBL yesterday present.ABS woman.ERG gave
'Yesterday A WOMAN gave the man the present.'

⇒ same pattern across Eurasian OV

A-SCRAMBLING AND PREVERBAL FOCUS ACROSS OV LANGUAGES

- directly preverbal focus in OV: my prediction: always A-scrambling

- (11) Focus Constraint (Nikolaeva 1999: 60)
Non-focus elements must precede the focus elements in the linear representation of the clause.
- (12) Preverbal information focus in OV languages
 $Y^* X_{\text{Foc}} V$
- a. focus in preverbal position
 - b. everything else in front of the focus
⇒ altruistic pattern
⇒ preverbal focus → A-scrambling

PREVERBAL FOCUS ACROSS OV LANGUAGES

- statistical universal: $OV \rightarrow$ preverbal focus (Czypionka 2007, Desző 1978, Herring 1990, Herring & Paolillo 1995, Kim 1988)
 - stronger absolute universals leading to $OV \Rightarrow$ scrambling
 - 1 preverbal focus \rightarrow OV
not absolute (cf. Gibson et al. 2017)
 - 2 $OV \rightarrow$ preverbal focus
not absolute; statistical only for Eurasia (cf. Czypionka 2007)
- \Rightarrow directly preverbal focus is not universally present in OV
- \Rightarrow universal scrambling in OV cannot follow from universal preverbal focus in OV

OVERVIEW: OV LANGUAGES WITH PREVERBAL FOCUS

- most or all Nakh-Daghestanian and Kartvelian languages (Forker 2020)
- IE-languages in Caucasus and Western Asia:
 - Eastern Armenian
 - (Iron) Ossetic (Borise & Erschler 2023)
 - Hittite (Lyutikova & Sideltsev 2021: only contrastive focus)
- Turkic languages
- OV languages of South Asia:
 - Malayalam and Kannada (Dravidian, Jayaseelan & Amritavalli 2005)
 - Hindi-Urdu (IE Manetta 2011: §4.3)
- Japanese (Miyagawa 2006: 617)
- Basque (Arregi 2002)
- Tibeto-Burman OV languages (according to Czypionka 2007, confirmed by Hilary Chappell, p.c.)
- Papuan OV languages (according to Czypionka 2007)
- Uralic OV languages (my thesis)

INTERIM CONCLUSION: A-SCRAMBLING AS A COMPARATIVE CONCEPT

Claim 1

A-Scrambling (altruistic movement to the left) is a typologically valid concept.

but:

Some OV languages lack A-scrambling.

Non-scrambling in OV languages

Claim 2

There are OV languages without A-scrambling.

Absence of the A-scrambling pattern:

- South Sámi (Uralic)
- Dutch, Afrikaans (Germanic)
- Amharic (Semitic)
- Korean, Jeju (Koreanic)
- Nepali (Indo-Aryan)
- South-Bolivian Quechua

WO variability, but:

- \neg altruistic OS order
- \neg multiple scrambling

NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES: SOUTH SÁMI

(13) [C: What woke the child up on Friday?]

- a. **GAAHTOE** bearjadahken maanam **gåaskoeji**.
cat.NOM Friday.GEN child.ACC wake.PST.3SG
'A CAT woke the child up on Friday.'
- b. *Bearjadahken maanam **gaahtoe** **gåaskoeji**.
Friday.GEN child.ACC cat.NOM wake.PST.3SG
int. 'A CAT woke a child up on Friday.'

- \neg altruistic OS order
- \neg multiple scrambling

NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES: SOUTH SÁMI

Instead, only singular non-altruistic fronting (contrastive topic + focus):

- (14) MAANAM gaahtoe BEARJADAHKEN **g̥aaskoeji**.
child.ACC cat.NOM Friday.GEN wake.PST.3SG
'(On Monday, the cat woke the mother, on Wednesday the father, and)
ON FRIDAY, the cat woke THE CHILD.'

NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES: NEPALI

(15) Nepali, Subject focus context (Dubinanda Dakal, p.c.)

a. Focus subject

#nəjã ghər mero bhai-le kin-jo.
new house my brother-ERG buy-PST.3SG.M.NH
'My brother bought a new house.'

b. Contrastive topic object

kukur Meri-le kin-i.
dog Mary-ERG buy-PST.3SG.F.NH
'A dog, Mary bought.'

NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES: SOUTH-BOLIVIAN QUECHUA

(16) a. Focus subject

OK TATA-Y ranti-rqa musuq auto-ta-qa.
father-1SG buy-PRET.TES new car-ACC-TOP
'MY FATHER bought a new car.'

b. Focus subject

#MUSUQ AUTO-TA-QA TATAY ranti-rqa.
new car-ACC-TOP father-1SG buy-PRET.TES
'MY FATHER bought a NEW CAR.'

c. Contrastive object

OK MUSUQ AUTO-TA-QA tatay ranti-rqa.
new car-ACC-TOP father-1SG buy-PRET.TES
'My father bought a NEW CAR.'

THE EPP PREVENTS A-SCRAMBLING

Claim 3

A high structural subject position in a functional projection constrains A-scrambling.



$\text{EPP} \rightarrow \neg \text{A-scrambling}$
(with Gisbert Fanselow)

HOW THE EPP CONSTRAINS A-SCRAMBLING

- (17) Premises for $EPP \rightarrow \neg A\text{-scrambling}$
- a. A-scrambling is VP/ νP **internal** (prevailing analysis)
 - b. subjects moved via EPP are VP/ νP **external**

HOW THE EPP CONSTRAINS A-SCRAMBLING

(17) Premises for EPP $\rightarrow \neg$ A-scrambling

- a. A-scrambling is VP/ ν P **internal** (prevailing analysis)
- b. subjects moved via EPP are VP/ ν P **external**

(18) OS order with a VP-external S can only involve a VP-external O
[_{FP} O [_{FP} S [... [_{VP} <S> [_{VP} <O> V]]]]]

HOW THE EPP CONSTRAINS A-SCRAMBLING

- (17) Premises for EPP $\rightarrow \neg$ A-scrambling
- a. A-scrambling is VP/ ν P **i**nternal (prevailing analysis)
 - b. subjects moved via EPP are VP/ ν P **e**xternal
- (18) OS order with a VP-external S can only involve a VP-external O
[_{FP} O [_{FP} S [... [_{VP} <S> [_{VP} <O> V]]]]]
- (19) OS order with a VP-internal S can involve a VP-internal O
[_{FP} \emptyset [... [_{VP} O [_{VP} S [_{VP} <O> V]]]]]

NEW IMPLICATIONAL UNIVERSAL ON THE EPP

New testable scrambling prediction

Every non-scrambling language should exhibit EPP effects that a scrambling language lacks, i.e., enhanced subject–object asymmetries.

$\neg A\text{-scrambling} \rightarrow \text{EPP effects}$

The structure of South Sámi

INDEPENDENT EPP EFFECTS IN SOUTH SÁMI

1. Superiority effects

2. General clause-structure

EPP EFFECTS: SUPERIORITY

(20) Superiority effects in South Sámi vs. Estonian

- a. *Gïem gie jáåktan heevehtimmesne tjuvliesti?
who.SG.ACC who.SG.NOM yesterday celebration.IN kiss.PST.3SG
int. ‘Who kissed who at the celebration yesterday?’
- b. ?Keda tervitas kes peol?
who.PART greet.PST.3SG who.NOM party.ADE
lit. ‘Who did who greet at the party?’

A PUZZLE: SAuxOV#–SOV# ALTERNATION

91% of OV	Macro-Sudan	South Sámi
S O V Aux	S Aux O V	S Aux O V
S O V	S V O	S O V

A PUZZLE: SAuxOV#-SOV# ALTERNATION

91% of OV	Macro-Sudan	South Sámi
S O V Aux	S Aux O V	S Aux O V
S O V	S V O	S O V

- (21) a.

Piere	aahtjan	bovtsem	<u>duaka</u> .	
Per.[NOM]	father.ILL	reindeer.ACC	sell.PRS.3SG	(South Sámi)
S	X	O	<u>V</u>	

 'Per sells the reindeer to the father.'
- b.

Piere	<u>edtja</u>	aahtjan	bovtsem	<u>doekedh</u> .
Per.[NOM]	shall.PRS.3SG	father.ILL	reindeer.ACC	sell.INF
S	<u>Aux</u>	X	O	<u>V</u>

 'Per will sell the reindeer to the father.'

A PUZZLE: SAuxOV#–SOV# ALTERNATION

91% of OV	Macro-Sudan	South Sámi
S O V	S V O	S O V
S O V Aux	S Aux O V	S Aux O V

Solution: South Sámi has obligatory Aux-, but not V-raising.

AUX- vs. V-RAISING IN OV LANGUAGES

Claim 4

The hitherto unique SOV#–SAuxOV# alternation in South Sámi results from verb movement restricted to auxiliaries. Aux-raising in an OV language fills a predicted gap in the typology of verb raising.

AUX- vs. V-RAISING IN OV LANGUAGES

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(22) **Proposal regarding V- and Aux-raising OV languages**

- a. V-raising language (Guébie): **SAuxOV-SVO** alternation

SAuxOV#: [S [Aux [<S> [X [[O V] <Aux>]]]]]

SVO: [S [V [<S> [X [O <V>]]]]]

- b. Aux-raising language (South Sámi): **SAuxOV–SOV** alternation

SAuxOV#: [S [Aux [<S> [X [[O V] <Aux>]]]]]

SOV#: [S [\emptyset [<S> [X [O V]]]]]

Consequence: EPP required

- (23) a. * $[_{CP} \dots [_{T'} \mathbf{Aux} [_{AuxP} [_{VP} \mathbf{S} [_{VP} X [_{VP} O V]]]] <Aux>]]$
- b. $[_{CP} \dots [_{TP} \mathbf{S} [_{T'} \mathbf{Aux} [_{AuxP} [_{VP} <S> [_{VP} X [_{VP} O V]]]] <Aux>]]]]$

Word order variability in OV

A-scrambling is common in OV

SOV can be rigid



OV cannot predict WO variability



EPP as predictor

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Word order variability in OV

A-scrambling is common
in OV

SOV can be rigid



OV cannot predict WO
variability



EPP as predictor



SUMMARY: THESES

Claim 1

A-Scrambling (altruistic movement to the left) is a typologically valid concept.

Claim 2

There are OV languages without A-scrambling.

Claim 3

A high structural subject position in a functional projection constrains A-scrambling.

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The hitherto unique SOV-SAuxOV# alternation in South Sámi results from verb movement restricted to auxiliaries. Aux-raising in an OV language fills a predicted gap in the typology of verb raising.

OTHER DEFINITIONS OF A-SCRAMBLING I

The Dutch definition: A-scrambling = adverbial intervention

- formulated as: A-scrambling \rightarrow OV
- \Rightarrow requires investigation of VO
 - already large-scale typological data (Hawkins 2014, Neeleman 2015)
- \Rightarrow better chances at absolute universal, but there is surface V–MANNER–O (Dryer, p.c.)
 - for surface V**Adv**O: requires in-depth study, potentially paper-length for one language (e.g. French)
 - South Sámi would still not fit (slide)

OTHER DEFINITIONS OF A-SCRAMBLING II

Haider's inclusion of IO-DO/T-R inversion

- ensures that Dutch has German-type A-scrambling
 - problem: only works with *oblique objects* (= PP) in Dutch
 - same phenomenon in Amharic:
 - rigid R-T/IO-DO order with neutral alignment (two accusatives)
 - variable order with indirective alignment (dative R)
- ⇒ obliques pattern with adverbials, not core arguments
- suggestion by Doreen Georgi (p.c.):
 - oblique DPs are PPs
 - merger hierarchies are built upon categories
- ⇒ S and DO are often the only DPs
- ⇒ full compatibility with Uralic (semantic cases are regarded as PPs)
- ⇒ same in Korean and Amharic

NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES: SOUTH SÁMI

Not even A-scrambling for ditransitives (Ellen Holm Bull, p.c.):

- (24) a. Aahka gærjam maanese vedti.
 grandmother.NOM book.ACC child.ILL give.PST.3SG
 ‘Grandmother gave a book to the child.’
- b. Aahka MAANESE gærjam vedti.
 grandmother.NOM child.ILL book.ACC give.PST.3SG
 ‘Grandmother gave a book TO THE CHILD.’

(25) [C: Mij deahpadi? / What happened?]

a. preferred order group A

Gaahtoe maanam bearjadahken gâaskoeji.
cat.NOM child.ACC friday.GEN wake.PST.3SG
‘A cat woke a child up on friday.’

b. marked order group A

Gaahtoe BEARJADAHKEN maanam gâaskoeji.
cat.NOM child.ACC friday.GEN wake.PST.3SG
‘A cat woke a child up ON FRIDAY.’ (emphasis, unclear whether topical or focal)

SOUTH SÁMI RIGIDITY II

(26) [C: Mij deahpadi? / What happened?]

a. preferred order group B

Gaahtoe bearjadahken maanam gâaskoeji.
cat.NOM child.ACC friday.GEN wake.PST.3SG
'A cat woke a child up on friday.'

b. marked order group B

Gaahtoe MAANAM bearjadahken gâaskoeji.
cat.NOM child.ACC friday.GEN wake.PST.3SG
'A cat woke A CHILD up on friday.' (emphasis, unclear topical or focal)

- previously: preverbal focus mistaken for clause-final focus despite verb particles (27)

(27) a. Sinu kasvatasin ju MINA üles.
2SG.ACC raise.PST.1SG DISC.PRT 1SG.NOM PRT

‘I was me who raised you, wasn’t it?’

(Erelt et al. 1993: 14 and 195, gloss and translation AP)

b. sinu kasvatasin ju <sinu> MINA üles-<kasvatasin>
2SG.ACC raise.PST.1SG DISC.PRT 2SG.ACC 1SG.NOM PRT-raise.PST.1SG

ALTRUISM VS. NON-ALTRUISM I

- (28) Klar ist, dass niemanden der BÜRGERMEISTER abholt.
clear is that nobody.ACC the mayor picks.up
'It is clear that the mayor does not pick up anybody.' (Fanselow 2003: 211)

ALTRUISM VS. NON-ALTRUISM II

- (29) a. THAT CAKE I won't eat.
- b. KNIGU Sasha chital. (Russian)
book.ACC Sasha read
'It was the book that Sasha read.'
- c. KUULTA Samppa Lajunen voitti. (Finnish)
gold.PAR Samppa Lajunen.NOM won
'It was gold that S.L. won (not silver).' (Kaiser 2006: 316)
- d. ʔeħmad ħabbat -u suʕād (Palestinian Arabic)
Ahmed loved.3SG.F -OM.3SG.M Suad
'Ahmed, Suad loved him.'

FURTHER NON-SCRAMBLING OV LANGUAGES

- Kru languages e.g. Guébie (Sande 2017)
- Tuparí (Tupian, Brazil, Adam Singerman p.c.)
- other varieties of Quechuan (Raúl Bendejú-Araujo, p.c.)
- Chibchan OV languages (Jana Bajorat, p.c.)

THE PROBLEM OF CARTOGRAPHY

- what adverbial placement variability means for cartography
 - movement explanation: arbitrary number of pre-determined landing sites between heads \Rightarrow parsimony
 - base-generation explanation: each head has multiple possible positions, iterations \Rightarrow self-abolishment

(30) Udmurt

- Mazha** *arnjapumyn lzhkaryn jaratysa* kyrdzha.
Masha weekend.IN lshkar.IN love.CVB sing.PRS.3SG
'Masha sings with love in Izhevsk on the weekend.'
- Arnjapumyn* **Mazha** *lzhkaryn jaratysa* kyrdzha.
weekend.IN Masha lshkar.IN love.CVB sing.PRS.3SG
- Arnjapumyn lzhkaryn* **Mazha** *jaratysa* kyrdzha.
weekend.IN lshkar.IN Masha love.CVB sing.PRS.3SG

FREE MERGER VS. UTAH

Neeleman's (= this work's) framework:

- merger is free
- *featural* theta-role assignment, not positional
 - ⇒ **anything can be the complement of V**

more commonly, Baker's Uniformity of Theta Assignment Hypothesis (UTAH):

- generative semantics's deep structure
- positional theta-role assignment
 - ⇒ **only P macrorole is complement of V**

AD NEELEMAN'S FLEXIBLE SYNTAX

- Merge is blind and therefore free (a priori)
 - ⇒ word order variability is the norm
 - ⇒ word order rigidity needs to be explained

AD NEELEMAN'S FLEXIBLE SYNTAX

- (A) Axioms for information-structurally neutral word orders Abels (2016), Abels & Neeleman (2012), Neeleman (2015, 2017)
- I. There are independent merger hierarchies. The order of merge is only restrained within each merger hierarchy.
 - II. Merge is symmetric. Structure building can take place to the left and to the right.
 - III. Neutral orders are base-generated or derived by X^+ -movement.
 - IV. X^+ -movement is asymmetric: it must be leftward.

BASE-GENERATION ANALYSIS OF A-SCRAMBLING VIA PREVERBAL FOCUS

(31) Description of A-scrambling

- a. Merger hierarchy: $S1 > S2$
- b. Actualised merge order: $S2 > S1$
- c. structural result: $[S1 [S2 H]]$

(32) Focus as the complement of V

$[_{V^*} Y^* [_{V'} X V]] \mapsto \text{focus: } X, \text{ background: } Y^*$

TYPOLGY OF SAuxOV LANGUAGES

- V and **Aux**: strong correlation pair: only 8% of OVs have **AuxV** order (Dryer 1992, 2013)
 - SAuxOV: globally rare (Gensler & Güldemann 2003, Julien 2003)
- (33) **SAuxOVX languages**: 1 – real SAuxOVX: Mande, Songhay, ... (Creissels 2005)
- SAuxOV# languages**: 2A – V-raising OV: Kru languages (Sande et al. 2019)
- 2B – Aux-raising OV: South Sámi (Khoekhoe?
- Canelo-Krahó?)

SOUTH SÁMI: AUX ORIGINATES BEHIND V

- (34) in line with data by Kroik (2016)
- analysis: Aux-movement supression

- (34) a. **Piere (lij) aahtjan bovtsem doekeme.**
Piere COP.PRS.3SG father.ILL reindeer.ACC sell.PTCP
‘Piere has sold the reindeer to the father.’
- b. **Piere aahtjan BOVTSEM doekeme lij.**
Piere father.ILL reindeer.ACC sell.PTCP COP.PRS.3SG
‘Piere has sold THE REINDEER to the father.’
- c. **Piere aahtjan bovtsem doekeme LIJ?**
Piere father.ILL reindeer.ACC sell.PTCP COP.PRS.3SG
‘Has Piere sold the reindeer to the father?’

GUÉBIE (KRU): AUX-RAISING: SOV–SAUXOV ALTERNATION

(35) a. e⁴ ji³ ja³¹ li³
1SG.NOM will coconuts eat
'I will eat coconuts.'

(Sande et al. 2019: 670)

b. e⁴ li² ja³¹
1SG.NOM eat.IPFV coconuts
'I eat coconuts.'

(Sande et al. 2019: 672)

- not V2: no flexible first position (Sande 2017: 94–102)
- also other Kru languages (Sande et al. 2019: 672)
- Kiezdeutsch: V-raising OV like Guébie instead of deviant V2 (pace Alexiadou & Lohndal 2018)

- superiority effects (modulo *wh*-in-situ: most OV langs)
- subject expletives (modulo pro-drop (Haider 2010); all langs in my sample)
- extraction asymmetries
- language-specific diagnostics (*Aux*-placement in English, South Sámi)
- psych verbs
- suggestion by Doreen Georgi: word order under valency-changing (not tested)

KOREAN CASE-MARKING

- Korean:
 - asymmetric differential argument marking (DAM) for S and O (Jun 2015)
 - symmetric DAM with *-nun* ...
- Japanese: asymmetric DAM lost, symmetric DAM with *-wa* ...

(36) a. cala thokki mulessta
 turtle rabbit bite:PST:DECL
 ‘The turtle bit the rabbit.’

(Jun 2015: 181; citing Yi 1988)

b. cala (-ka) thokki mulessta
 turtle -NOM rabbit bite:PST:DECL

c. cala thokki (-lul) mulessta
 turtle rabbit -ACC bite:PST:DECL

AUX- vs. V-RAISING IN OV LANGUAGES: V-RAISING









(37) Guébie (Kru): SAuxOV#–SVO (not V2)

- a. e⁴ li² ja³¹
1SG.NOM eat.IPFV coconuts
S V O
'I eat coconuts.'

(Sande et al. 2019: 672)

- b. e⁴ ji³ ja³¹ li³
1SG.NOM will coconuts eat
S Aux O V
'I will eat coconuts.'

(Sande et al. 2019: 670)

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