Non-Existent Word Orders and Left-Branching Structure

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Claim

- Non-existent word order patterns violate principles of linearization.
  (i) #V pronoun/DP V
  (ii) #V O Aux
  (iii) #O V/Aux V O
  (iv) #O V in main cl./V O in subordinate cl.

Proposal

The non-existence of these word orders is explained if we assume:
- the universal base order Spec-Head-Complement
- the movement of the complement to the specifier position of its head (or a higher functional head) (Kayne 1994, Julien 2002), which changes a right-branching structure into a left-branching structure (Holmberg 2000): [H [c ...]] -> [[c ...] H]
- the junctural asymmetry of left/right-branching
Consistent OV languages tend to be agglutinative and have simple syllable structure. (Lehmann 1973: 61, Plank 1998, Tokizaki and Kuwana 2007, UA#61) Japanese: CV or CVn /se/ or /sen/ English: CCCVCCCC /stre"ks/ strengths

Percentages of two order combinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Mod. Complex</th>
<th>Mod. Simple</th>
<th>Complex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S\L</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H C</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H C-H</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-H</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-H dis</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H dis-h</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phonological change in left-branching compound

(14) a. [nise tanuki shiru] → nise danuki jiru mock badger soup ‘mock badger soup’
b. [nise tanuki shiru] → nise tanuki jiru mock badger soup ‘mock badger soup’

John has the man seen
b. Johann ist [VP [DP den Mann] gesehen]
John is to Berlin gone
‘John has gone to Berlin.’

FOFC: If a phase-head PH has an EPP-feature, then all the heads in its complement domain from which it is non-distinct in categorial features must have an EPP-feature.

Circumpositions: [P [P auf den Berg] hinauf] on the mountain Dir-up "up onto the mountain"

Counterexamples to FOFC

Verbal complements in OV languages violates FOFC. (13) a. Johann hat [VP [DP den Mann] gesehen]
John has the man seen
John is to Berlin gone
‘John has gone to Berlin.’

Head-final, agglutinative, and simple syllable

- Consistent OV languages tend to be agglutinative in their morphology. (Lehmann 1973: 47, UA#11)
- Japanese
  a. yomasetai ‘He caused to read.’
  b. yomasesai ‘He does not cause to read.’
- OV languages tend to have simple syllable structure. (Lehmann 1973: 61, Plank 1998, Tokizaki and Kuwana 2007, UA#61)

English: CCCVCCCC /stre"ks/ strengths
The Least Words: an economy condition that requires a construction to have the least number of words.

- A compound [O-V] can be made in this language.
- [V O] has three words, Aux, V, and O, which are a part of right-branching structure.
- These words could be [Aux [O-V]], which has two words because [O-V] is a left-branching "compound."
- O-V/Aux O-V: Supyire (Senoufo, Gur, Niger-Congo) (17) u mâha suro shvôhôs she Hab mush cook ‘She cooks mush.’
- V O (2 words)/Aux O-V (2 words) (German, Dutch)
References


Biber, T., A. Holmberg and I. Roberts. 2007. Structure and linearization in disharmonic word orders. WCCFL 26. (Talk given at Nanzan University, Feb 21)


#The Universals Archive. http://typo.uni-konstanz.de/archive/intro/