

**なぜOV言語はCVか：  
語順と音韻の相関性**

Why do OV languages have CV syllable structure?

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### Goals

- To show that OV languages have simple syllable structure by analyzing data in *The World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS)*.
- To explain why OV languages have simple syllable structure by phonological constraints and syntactic movement.

2

**OV => agglutinative**  
**VO => inflectional**

- Consistent OV languages tend to be agglutinative in their morphology. [UA#11] (Lehmann 1973: 47)

(1) Japanese

- a. *yomaseta* ‘He caused to read.’
- b. *yomasenai* ‘He does not cause to read.’
- c. *yomarenai* ‘It is not being read.’

3

**OV => agglutinative**  
**VO => inflectional**

- Consistent VO languages tend to be inflectional in their morphology. (Lehmann 1973: 47)

(2) Hebrew

- a. *ka:tab* ‘He wrote.’
- b. *hikti:b* ‘He caused to write/be written.’
- c. *hiikatte:b* ‘He corresponded (wrote reciprocally).’

4

**OV => moraic-counting**  
**VO => syllable-counting**

- OV languages are often mora-counting, and VO languages are syllable-counting. [UA#891] (Lehmann 1973)

(3) Japanese  
/su-ro-o-mo-o-sho-n/

(4) English  
/slow-mo-tion/

5

**OV => phrase-initial stress**  
**VO => phrase-final stress**

- In a Verb Phrase, main stress should be to the right of Verb in VO languages and to its left in OV languages [because a phrase's main stress is located on its most deeply embedded constituent, which is ordinarily the innermost complement of the phrase head]. [UA#372, cf. #893]

(Cinque 1993, cf. Donegan and Stampe 1983)

6

#893 RHYTHMIC HOLISM: Donegan & Stampe (1983) and Stampe (1985)	
phrase accent (X):	rising (final)
word canon:	iambic (last syllable accented) or monosyllabic
timing:	isacaentual (stress timed)
syllable canon:	(C)V or (C)(C)V(Glide)(C)
consonantism:	diachronically shifting tonogenetic consonantism non-geminate clusters
vocalism:	diachronically shifting diphongal reductive
tone/register:	contour tones/register
verse:	rhyme (identities final)
music:	polyphony tempered scales multiplicative rhythms
word order:	rigid operator last: VO, VAdv, AuxV, NAdj, AAdv, NGen, Adj NP (i.e. prepositions)
critic order:	prolific
affix order:	prefixing
morphosyntax:	more analytic
morphology:	flective or isolating
	falling (initial)
	trochaic or dactylic (first syllable accented)
	isosyllabic or isomorphic (syllable-or mora-timed)
	(C)V(C)
	stable geminate clusters
	stable monophongal harmonic
	level tone
	alliteration (identities initial)
	monophony modal scales additive rhythms
	variable operator first: OV, AdvV, VAux, AjN, AdvA, GenN, NP Adp (i.e. postpositions)
	erctic sufficing
	more synthetic , especially case, verb agreement
	agglutinative or polysynthetic

#894 RHYTHMIC HOLISM: Gil (1986)	
IAMBIC RHYTHM (WEAKER-STRONGER)	TROCHAIC RHYTHM (STRONGER-WEAKER)
unstressed before stressed	stressed before unstressed
less- before more-syllable units	more- before less-syllable units
less- before more-sonorous units	more- before less-sonorous units
less- before more complex syntactically	more- before less complex syntactically
less- before more important syntactically	more- before less important syntactically
(S)OV etc. (i.e. modifier-head order throughout)	(S)V(O etc. (i.e. head-modifier order throughout))
agglutinative morphology	flective morphology
stressed-timed	syllable-timed
faster tempo	slower tempo
(measured in syllables per unit time or per unit content)	
simple syllable structure	complex syllable structure
high consonant-vowel ratio	low consonant-vowel ratio
more obstruent segments (textually and in phonemic inventory)	more sonorant segments
more level intonation contours (less pitch variation)	more variable intonation contours (more melodic)
non-tonal	tonal

8

## OV => simple syllable structure VO => complex syllable structure

- OV languages tend to have simple syllable structure. [UA#196]  
(Lehmann 1973:61, cf. Plank 1998)
- (5) Japanese: CV or CVn /se/ or /sen/
- (6) English: CCCVCCCC /streŋkθs/ *strengths*
- Cf. \*COMPLEX  
NO-CODA

9

## Constraints

- (7) \*COMPLEX  
No more than one C or V may associate to any syllable position node.
- (8) NO-CODA  
A syllable must *not* have a coda.  
(Prince and Smolensky 1993)

10

## Do OV languages have simple syllable structure?

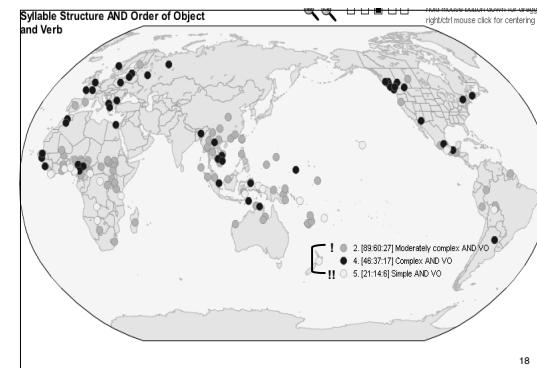
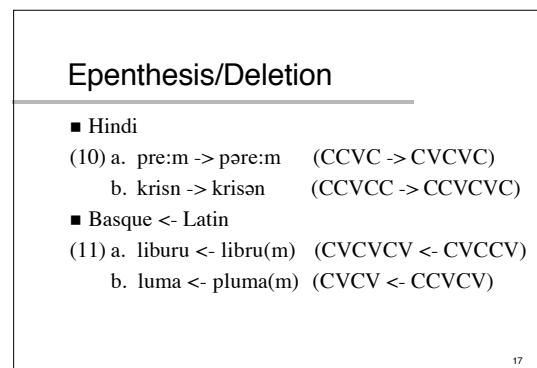
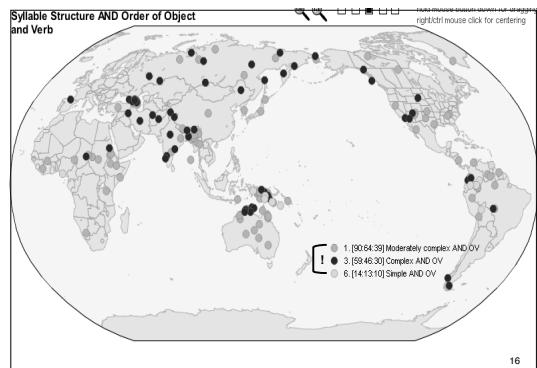
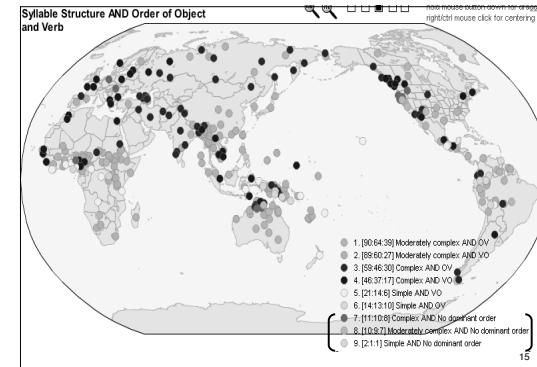
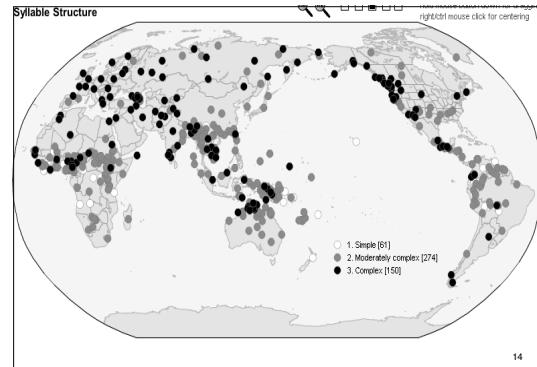
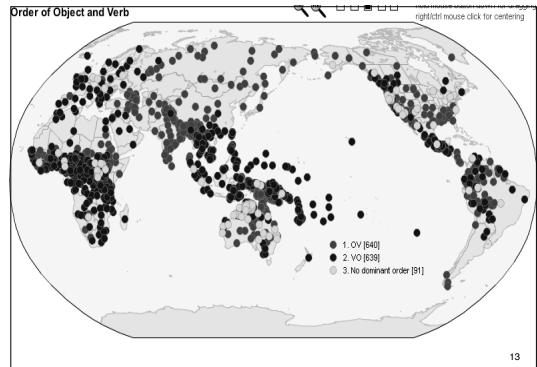
- Haspelmath, Martin, Matthew S. Dryer, David Gil, and Bernard Comrie (eds.) 2005. *The World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS)* [with The Interactive Reference Tool].
- Combined features:  
Word order: OV, VO or No dominant order  
Syllable: Simple, Moderately complex or Complex

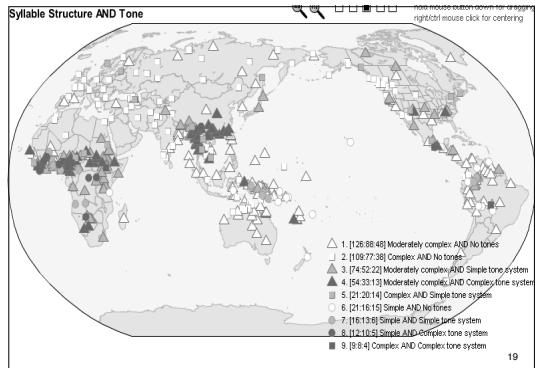
11

## Syllable structure

- Simple: CV (Hawaiian, Mba)  
(C)V (Fijian, Igbo, Yareba)
- Moderately complex:  
CVC<sub>C</sub> [C<sub>C</sub>: limited? (HT)]  
CC<sub>2</sub>V [C<sub>2</sub>: liquids or glides]  
CC<sub>2</sub>VC (Darai /bwak/ 'father')
- Complex: (C)(C)(C) V (C)(C)(C)(C)  
(Maddieson 2005 in WALS)

12





## Correlating phonological complexity

- syllable complexity and mean # of consonants:  
positive correlation
- syllable complexity and tone complexity:  
negative correlation

(Maddieson 2006)

20

## Syllable complexity in analytic languages

- South east Asia (Thai, Vietnamese)
- Thai: VO, Moderately complex syllable  
Coda: /p, t, k, ?, m, n, ɳ, w, y/
- Vietnamese: VO, Moderately complex syllable  
(C<sub>1</sub>)(w)V(G)(C<sub>2</sub>)+T  
C<sub>2</sub>: labial, coronal, & velar stops /p, t, k/ and  
nasals /m, n, ɳ/

21

## Summing up

- OV languages tend to have simple (or moderately complex) syllable structure.
- Exceptions can be attributed to the neglect of phonological simplification.
- VO languages tend to have complex syllable structure or (moderately) complex tone.

22

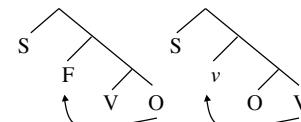
## Why do OV languages have simple syllable structure?

- Head parameter: head-final [OV]  
head-initial [VO] (Chomsky 1981)
- Movement: SV<sub>O</sub> -> S<sub>V</sub>O (Kayne 1994)  
SO<sub>V</sub> -> S<sub>V</sub>O (Fukui and Takano 1998)
- Incorporation, polysynthesis (Baker 1988, 2001)
- Branching and stress in compounds and phrases (Cinque 1993)

23

## Syntax of OV and VO

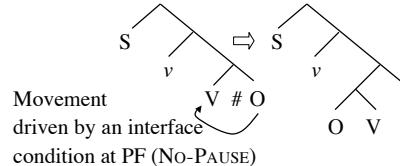
- Movement: S V O -> S O V (Kayne 1994)  
S O V -> S V O (Fukui and Takano 1998)



24

### Proposal: O-to-V movement

- Movement: S V Q -> S Q V (Kayne 1994)  
S V Q -> S Q-V (Proposal)



25

### Movement driven or canceled by phonological constraints

- (8) No-PAUSE  
A sentence must *not* have pause.
- yomu # hon-o  
read # books      ⇒      hon-o yomu  
CVCV CVCV (\*COMPLEX: √)  
(No-PAUSE: \*) \* books read  
CVCC CVC (\*COMPLEX: \*\*)

26

	*COMPLEX	No-PAUSE
a. yomu # hon-o CVCV # CVCV		*!
b. <del>read</del> hon-o yomu CVCV CVCV		
a. <del>read</del> books CVC # CVCC		*
b. books read CVCC CVC	*!	

27

### Consequences

- Agglutinative  
yom-ase-ta    made them read  
oyog-eru    can swim
- PP: P N (VQ) -> N-P (Q-V)  
ni # Komaba -> Komaba-ni  
to # Boston -> \*Boston-to

28

### Left-branching structure as compound

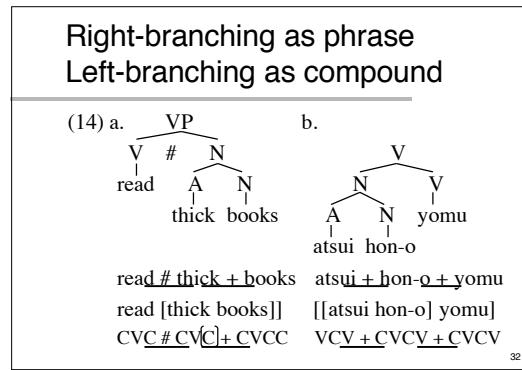
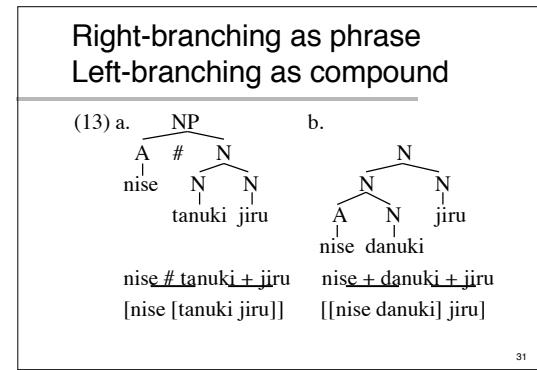
- Head parameter: head-final vs. head-initial
- OV <-> N Postp:  
[[[Kita-no] kuni-no] kurashi]  
north-P country-P life  
'life in countries in the north'
- VO <-> Prep N

29

### Left-right asymmetry Voicing in Japanese: *rendaku*

- (11) a.   
[nise tanuki shiru] -> [nise tanuki jiru]
- b.   
[[nise tanuki] shiru] -> [[nise danuki] jiru]
- (12) Right Branch Condition  
*Rendaku* applies only when a potential *rendaku* segment is in a right branch constituent.  
(Otsu 1980, cf. LBC by Haraguchi 2001)

30



**\*COMPLEX-ONSET in Complement/  
No-CODA in Head**

- \*COMPLEX-ONSET in Complement

(15) them -> 'em beat'em      VO HC

- No-CODA in Head

(16) of -> o'      a cup [o' tea] PN HC

33

**Branching and phrase/compound**

(17) In a configuration [<sub>C</sub> A B <sub>C</sub>]:  
 a. NSR: If C is a phrasal category, B is strong.  
 b. CSR: if C is a lexical category, B is strong iff it branches.  
 (Liberman and Prince 1977, cf. Cinque 1993:273)

(18) Right-branching node is a phrase-like with a strong boundary.  
 Left-branching node is a compound-like with a weak boundary.

34

**Complement-to-Head movement  
in VO languages**

(19) a. therein <- in there (in that place)  
 N - P    P N  
 b. proof-reading <- read proof  
 N - V    V N  
 c.   
 Wadeck's Mother's Friend's Son (movie title)

35

**Conclusion**

- OV languages tend to have simple syllable structure.
- OV languages allow Complement-to-Head movement to derive pause-less structure without consonant cluster.

36

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