

Northern Zhuang

SVO order

2. *de gai byaek youhcaiq gai noh*
3SG sell vegetable as:well sell meat

‘S/he sells vegetable and sells meat.’ (Wéi and Qín 2006: 198)

Head noun left of most modifiers

3. *go oij [duz vaiz gou caij laemx henz roen] haenx raek lo*
CL sugar_cane CL buffalo 1SG step fall side road that break FP
‘The sugar cane that my buffalo trempled on the side of the road snapped.’
(Wéi and Qín 2006: 251)

Standard Cantonese

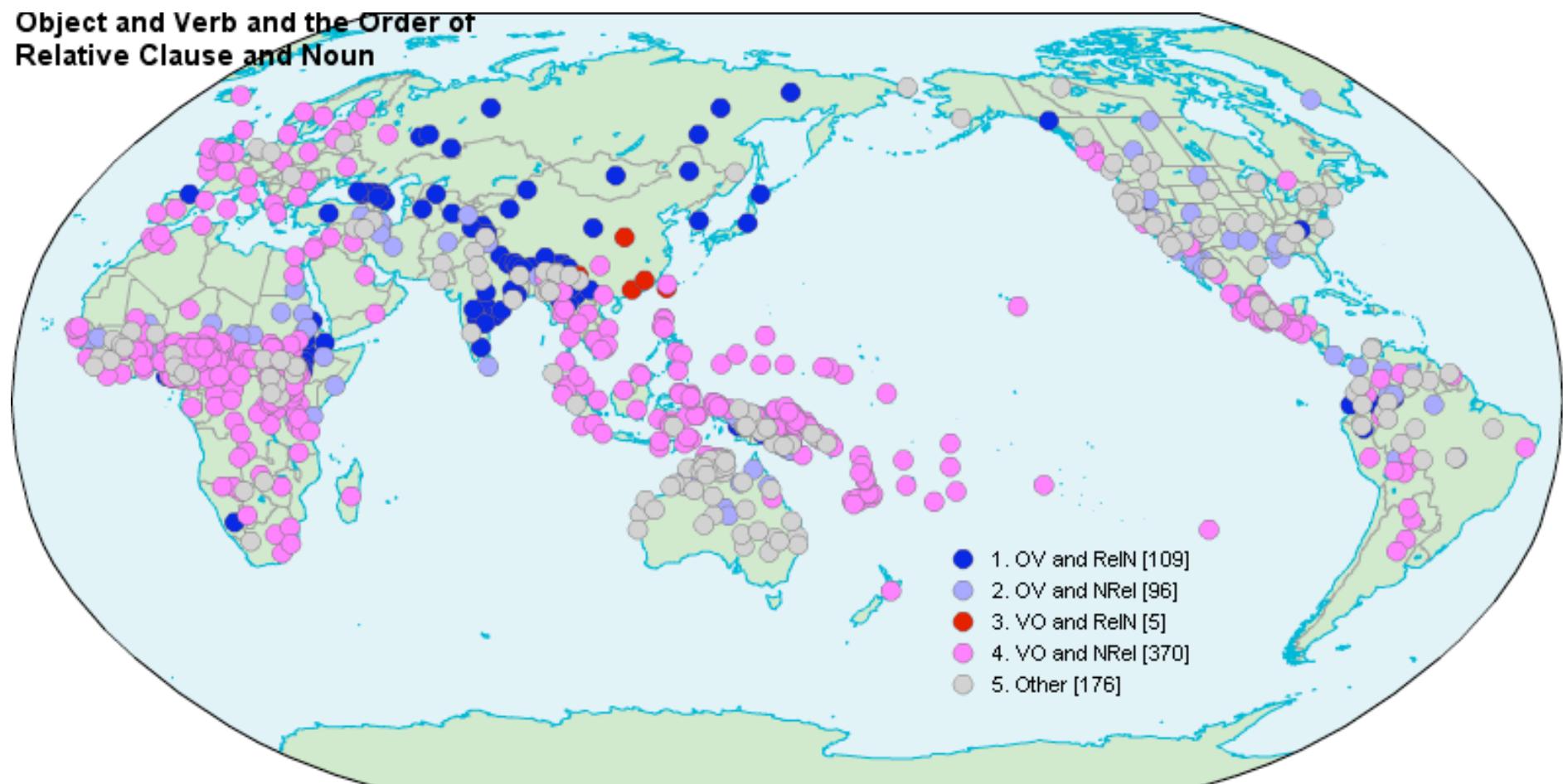
SVO order

4. 佢 賣 菜 又 賣 肉
k^həy¹³ mai²² tʃ^hɔi³³ jəu²² mai²² juk²
3SG sell vegetable as:well sell meat
‘S/he sells vegetable and sells meat.’

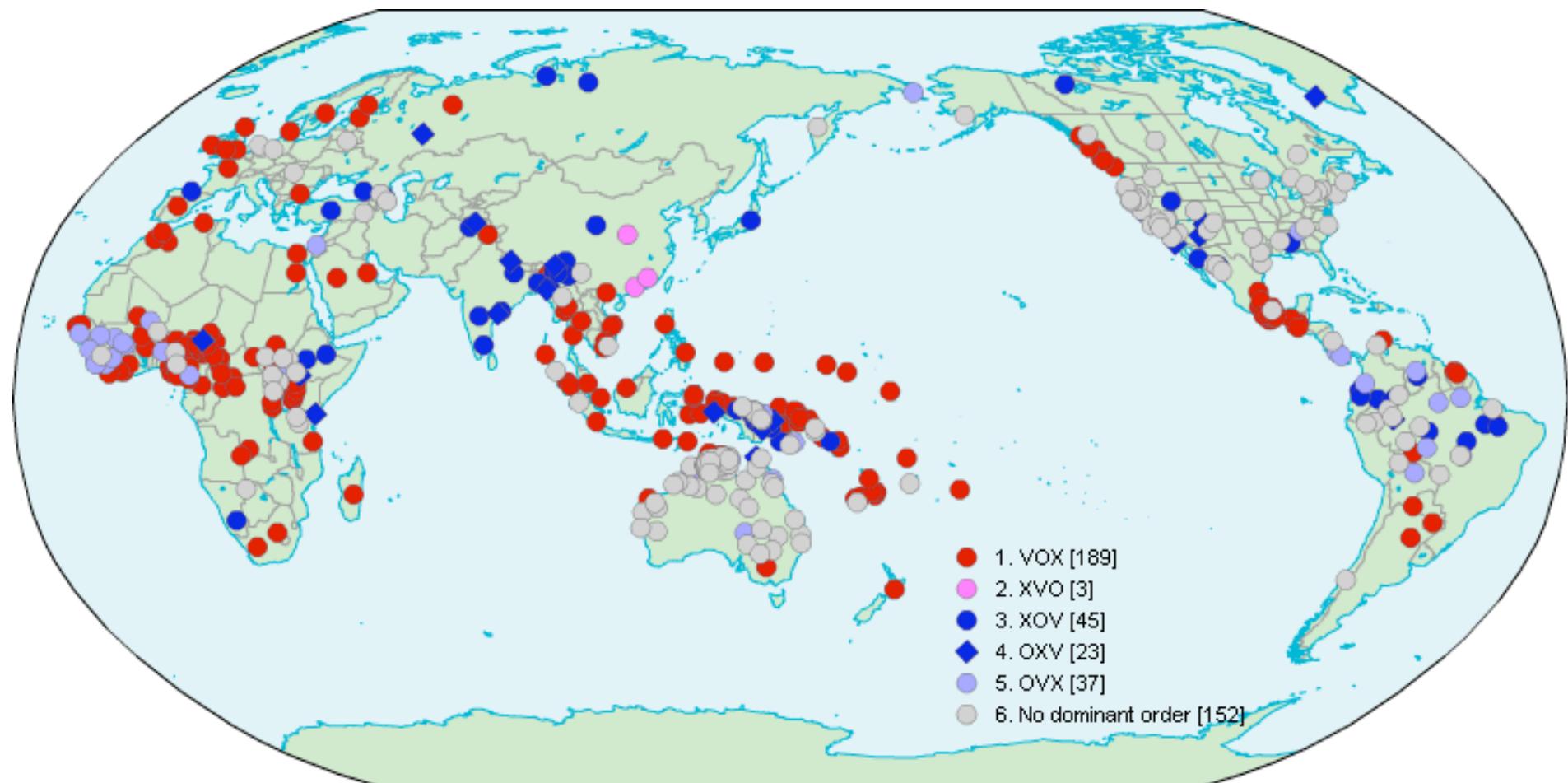
Head noun right of modifiers

5. 我 隻 牛 嘸 路 邊 踩 糜 嘎 碌 蔗 斷咗
[ŋɔ¹³ tse³ ɿau¹¹ hei²⁵ lou²² pin⁵⁵ ts^hai²⁵ lem³³] kɔ²⁵ luk⁵ tse³³ t^hyn²⁴-tsɔ²⁵
1SG CL bovine at road side step fall DEM CL cane break-PFV
‘The sugar cane that my buffalo trempled on the side of the road broke.’

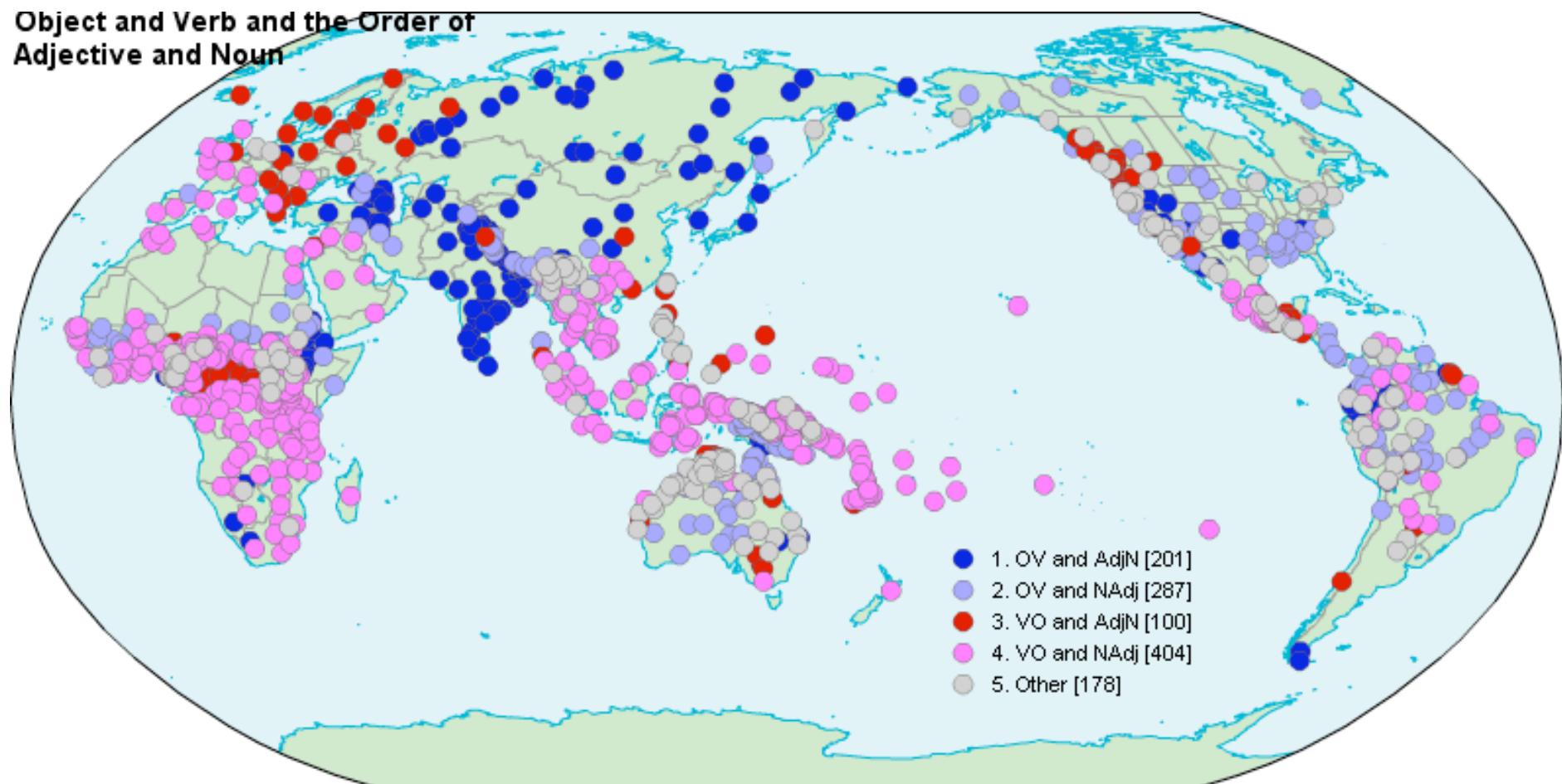
Feature 97A: Relationship between the Order of Object and Verb and the Order of Adjective and Noun
by Matthew S. Dryer



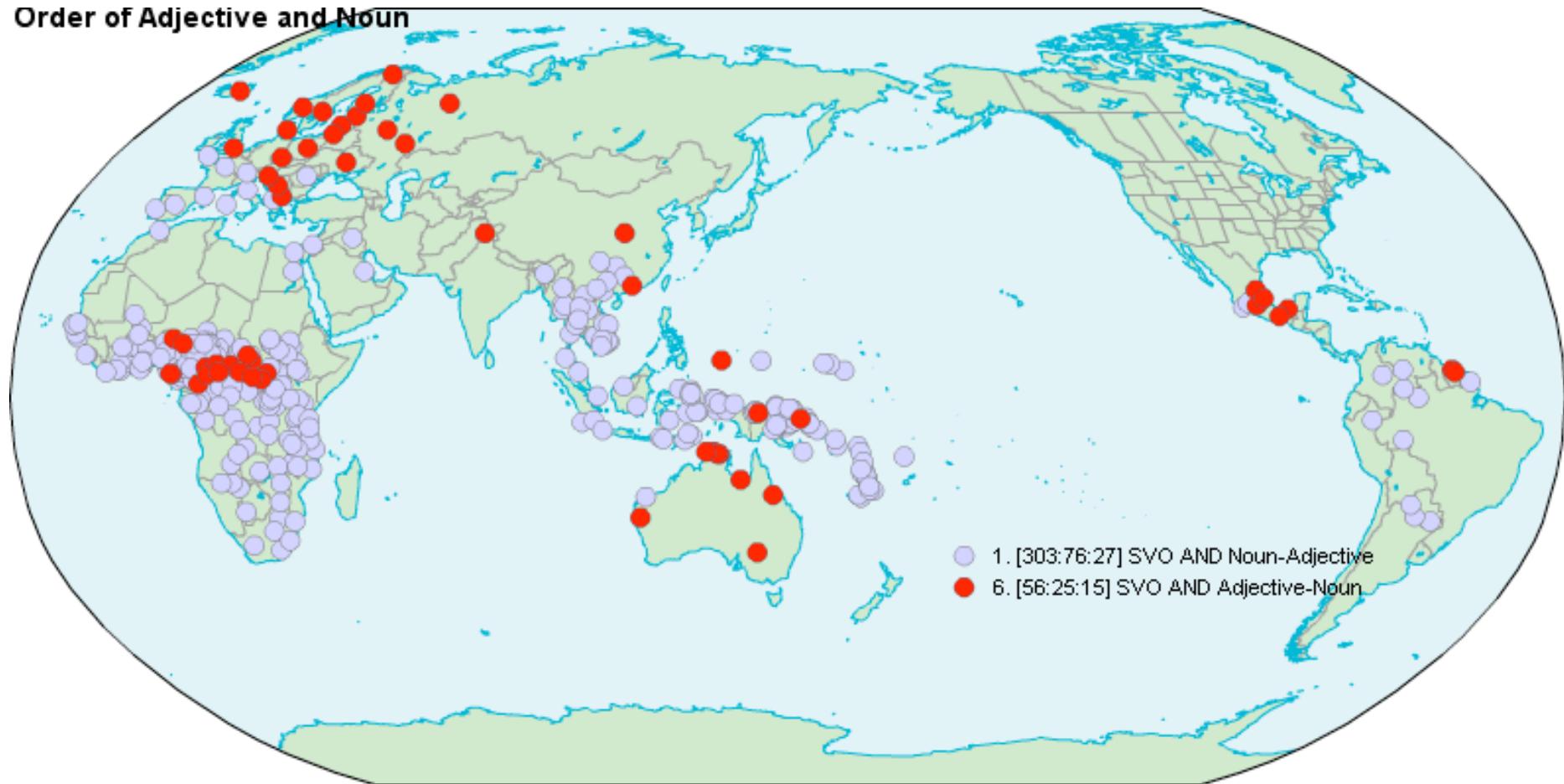
Feature 84A: Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb
by Matthew S. Dryer (with Orin D. Gensler)



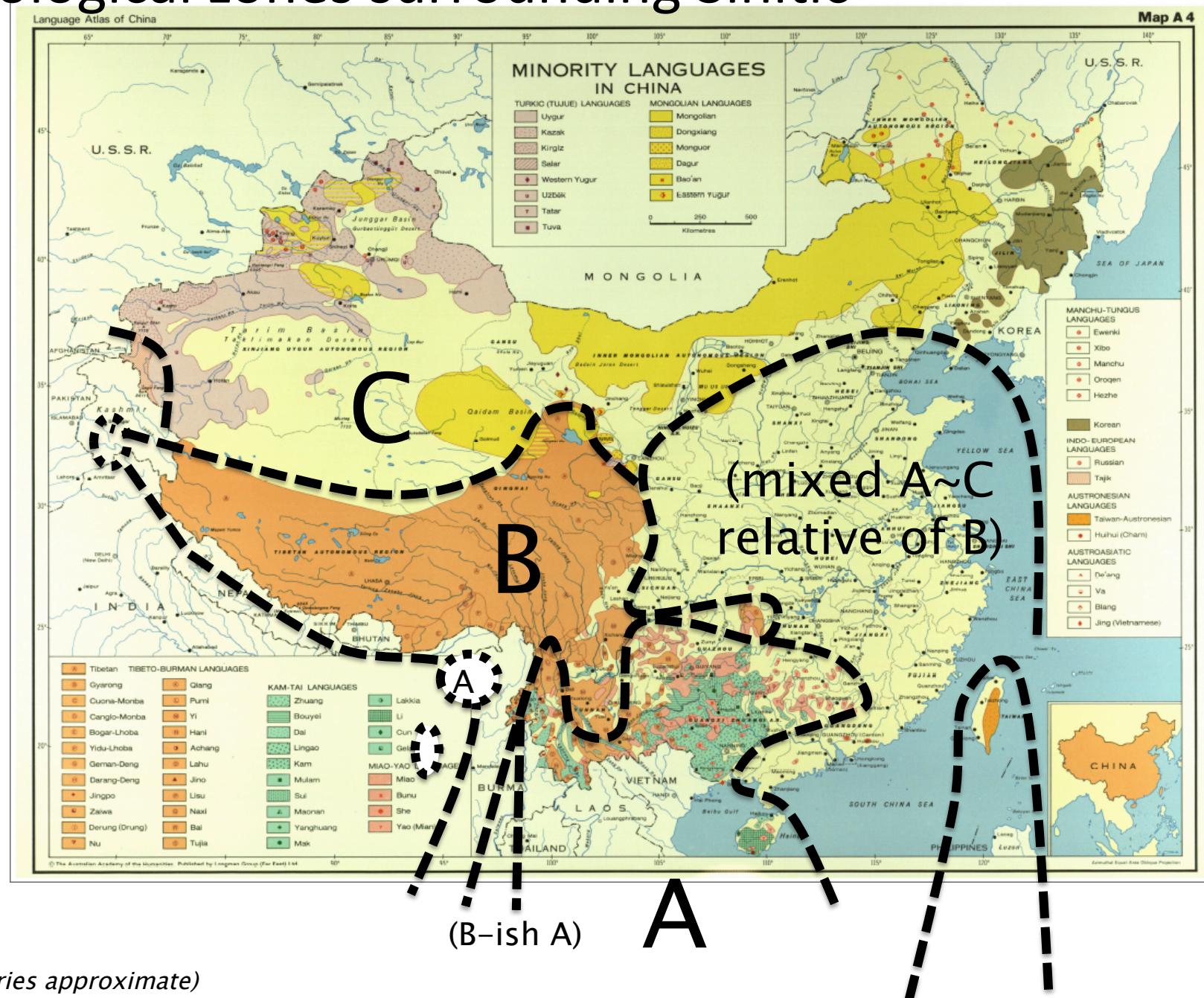
Feature 97A: Relationship between the Order of Object and Verb and the Order of Adjective and Noun by Matthew S. Dryer



Order of Adjective and Noun



Typological zones surrounding Sinitic



(boundaries approximate)

Area A.

The verb-medial MSEA zone to the south. The prototypical MSEA languages are SVO and more left-headed than the average SVO languages. Included in this zone are the Hmong-Mien, Kra-Dai, Mon-Khmer and Chamic languages;

Utsat (Chamic; strongly Chinese influenced)

6. *?a¹¹thai¹¹ se¹¹ phai³³sian¹¹ ho¹¹lien¹¹ ?a¹¹kai³³ sa³³ ta¹¹ se⁵⁵,*
l.sister CL very feel:sorry old.man MOD one CL
kian³³ ?a¹¹kai³³ ni³³ sa³³ ta¹¹ se⁵⁵ ten³² pa³³,
know old.man this MOD one CL stomach hungry
'The little sister was very sorry for the old man, and knew that the old man was hungry,'
(Zhèng 1997: 238)
(*phai³³sian¹¹ ho¹¹lien¹¹* are Chinese loanwords in Chinese word order: 非常可憐.)

Green Hmong (Hmong-Mien)

7. *kuv nyam tug txivneej kws ncaws pob*
1SG like CL man REL kick ball
hab tug txivneej kws moog rua Fresno
and CL man REL go to Fresno
'I like the man who plays soccer and the man who went to Fresno.' (Li 1989: 120)

Area B (and Area A~B).

The verb final Tibeto-Burman zone to the west. These languages are SOV, primarily right-headed but not very strongly right-headed (e.g. Tibetan and Burmese are SOV and have N–Num and N–Adj word order). The Tibeto-Burman languages are verb final, except for the following SVO languages, which, like the Sinitic languages, exhibit interesting mix of VO and OV properties (“Area A~B”): the Karen languages, Báí languages, and Mru (Peterson 2005);¹

Burmese

8. *thu di hsei: thau' me*
3 this medicine drink IRR
'He's going to take this medicine.' (Myint Soe 1999: 132)
9. *thu. le' nyi'=pa' ne. nga. kou la tou. te*
3GEN hand dirty with 1 OBJ come touch RLS
'(He) touched me with his dirty hands.' (Myint Soe 1999: 256)

Eastern Kayah Li (Karenic)

10. *phremò métha phrekhū sí nλ*
woman look:see man CL two
'Some women saw two men.' (Solnit 1997: 181)
11. *?a khē təlwá sɔklā né sɔkhō*
3 paddle pass boat PREP snag
'He paddled the boat past the snag (fallen log).' (Solnit 1997: 159)

Area C.

The verb final North Asia zone to the north. These languages are SOV and strongly right-headed. In and near China are the following families of SOV languages: Turkic, Mongolic, Tungusic, Korean and Japanese-Ryūkyūan.¹

Uyghur (Turkic)

12. *sen bu kino-ni kør*
2SG this film-ACC see[IMP]

‘You watch this film!’ (Abulimit 2006: 239)

13. *top ojna-watqan bala bizniŋ sinip-ta oqu-jdu*
ball play-CONT boy 1PL:GEN class-LOC study-3.NPAST

‘The boy who is playing with a ball studies in our class.’ (Abulimit 2006: 324)

	Thai	Khmer	Vietnamese	E Kayah Li	Burmese	Hmong Njua	Mien	Cantonese	Náníng Pínghuà	Hui'ān S Mín	Fúqīng E Mín	Shàowǔ W Mín	Yíchūn Gàn	Fùyáng Wú	Jīxī Huī	Gǔzhāng Wǎxiāng	Sūníng C Mandarin
N – Genitive																	
	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N – “Adjective” (e.g. chicken – big)																	
	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N – Noun (e.g. egg – chicken)																	
	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N – Gender (e.g. chicken – male)																	
	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	-
N – Demonstrative																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N – Numeral																	
	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N – Relative clause																	
	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	7	7	6	4	3	5	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	½	½	½	0

Table 4

Left-headed-ness on the noun phrase level in some Sinitic and MSEA languages

Clause-level word order

In contrast to Pre-Archaic Chinese, which is a relatively normal SVO language, two related tendencies developed amongst the modern Sinitic languages (e.g. Zhāng 2010, Liú 2012, Bisang 2012):

- the Sinitic languages accept postverbal constituents less readily; and
- in many Sinitic languages, the association of postverbal constituents with new information/indefiniteness became stronger.

Clause-level word order

In Far-Southern Sinitic languages, e.g.
Cantonese, these trends are very weak.

Clause-level word order

In Southeastern Sinitic languages, e.g. Níngbō Wú, these trends are very strong.

Verb-final clauses with:

- Sentences with a post-verbal tense-aspect marker (e.g. present perfective, past perfective, durative, simultaneous, experiential; these markers are often grammaticalised from locative words);
- Some Irrealis sentences, e.g.:
 - Negative sentences (S – O – NEG – V);
 - Yes-no questions (S – O – V – Q);
 - Rhetorical questions (S – O – V – Q);
 - Imperative sentences (except that [NUM–CL] phrase and verbal complements can occur post-verbally);
- Emphatic existential sentences (S – O – exist – EMP);
- ‘Go’ (e.g. I place go);
- ‘From’ (e.g. I place from go);
- Transitive sentences with a definite object.

In the following subsections, we will discuss the various situations where non-subject constituents have to be preverbal in the Sintic languages. We will be discussing:

- Position of adverbials and adpositions (§4.2.1);
- Position of modifiers of verbs (§4.2.2);
- Position of objects (§4.2.3);
 - The object marking construction (§4.2.3.1);
 - Preverbal and Postverbal definite objects (§4.2.3.2);
 - Word order in clauses with three place predicates (§4.2.3.3).

	Thai	Khmer	Vietnamese	E Kayah Li	Burmese	Hmong Njua	Mien	Cantonese	Náníng Pínghuà	Huí'ān S Mín	Fúqīng E Mín	Sháowǔ W Mín	Yíchūn Gàn	Fùyáng Wú	Jíxī Hūi	Gǔzhāng Wǎxiāng	Suining C Mandarin
VO: bought the car																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	±
VO: bought a car																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
VO: hit me																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	-	?	+
VO(P)O: give me the book																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	?	-
VO(P)O: give me a book																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	?
VOPO(P): put the book on table																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
go DESTINATION																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
at inside LOCATION																	
	+	+	+	+	±	-	+	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
VOX: play ball LOCATION																	
	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
walk slow																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
go first																	
	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	±	-
eat more																	
	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	+	±	±	-
Total:	12	12	12	11½	1	11	8½	9½	8½	3	5½	6½	8½	3		3½	

Table 5

Left headedness on the clause level (for the most-common construction in each category)

Acknowledgement

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Research Council under the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013): ERC Advanced Grant agreement No. 230388: 'The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages' (2009-2013).



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