

# Constituent Order of the Ishiculu language

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Some glossing abbreviations used in this chapter: INT = interior, SUR = surface, STATIC, PREP = preposition, POST = postposition.

Ishiculu is subject-prominent. The basic word order of Ishiculu is SVO. More accurately, its basic word order is subject-predicate, where the predicate can be a VP, an AdjP, or a PP.

Ishiculu uses both prepositions and postpositions. All prepositions are used to mark locative case, but overt postpositions are only used in marking lative and ablative.

- (1) *Ari pa kiw-ioani ntało kitabu.*  
Ari not 3SG-like CLF.7 book(7)  
‘Ari doesn’t like the book.’
- (2) *Tse-kiw-ioani-mbi ntało kitabu.*  
1PL-3SG-like-PST CLF.7 book(7)  
‘We used to like the book.’
- (3) *Ari fu-Philadelphia-tso.*  
Ari PREP.INT-Philadelphia-POST.ABL  
‘Ari is from Philadelphia.’
- (4) *Fu-Philadelphia-ø tse-ke-ła-ki Ari ntało kitabu.*  
PREP.INT-Philadelphia-POST.STA 1PL-have-CAUS-3SG Ari CLF.7 book(7)  
‘We will give Ari the book in Philadelphia.’

A locative phrase can also occupy the subject position of verb and the subject will be moved to the object position.

- (5) *Tsx-nji-tso ki-huma ntało ika.*  
PREP.SUR-table-POST.ABL 3SG-jump CLF.6 cat(6)  
‘Off the table jumps a cat.’
- (6) *Fu-heje-ø ki-paka i ntochx.*  
PREP.INT-courtyard-POST.ABL 3SG-park CLF.8 car(8)  
‘In the courtyard is parked a car.’

To put the emphasis on the object, it is possible to have OSV word order, but there will need to be a classifier for the object remaining in the original position.

- (7) *Kitabu tse-ki-so-mbi ntaŋo.*  
book(7) 1PL-3SG-read-PST CLF.7  
'The book, we have read it.'
- (8) *ntochx ni-kiw-ioani i.*  
car(8) 1SG-3SG-like CLF.8  
'The car, I like it.'