

The Syntax Of The Verb Initial Languages

Verb-Initial Word Orders
(Primarily in Austronesian and Mayan Languages)*

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Abstract

This chapter presents several approaches to the syntax of verb-initial (V1) languages with a special emphasis on Mayan and Austronesian languages. Some V1 languages are strictly VSO, others are VOS, and a significant number combine both orders. This chapter focuses on data from VSO/VOS languages and the factors that underlie these alternations. A number of V1 languages can be more adequately characterized as predicate-initial, with V1 representing just a subset of possible clause-initial predicates. The chapter presents a number of structural properties that are or may be associated with V1 and discusses possible implicational relations between such properties and V1. While there are certain common characteristics observed across V1 languages, it is also clear that there are several distinct subtypes of V1. These subtypes call for different syntactic analyses; main approaches include the derivation of V1 via phrasal movement (VP-raising) and via head-movement (verb-raising). Other approaches to the derivation of V1 include the parametrization of specifier direction within a single language, non-configurational syntax, and subject lowering. In addition to these syntactic analyses, several recent approaches place the derivation of V1 outside syntax or at the syntax-PF interface. Careful, in-depth analyses of individual languages are required to test the different approaches to V1; in quite a few cases such analyses are still lacking.

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This collection of papers brings together the most recent crosslinguistic research on the syntax of verb-initial languages. Authors with a variety of theoretical. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax. New York: Oxford derivational approaches that have been proposed for verb-initial languages. This chapter is very. The Syntax of Verb Initial Languages. Edited by Andrew Carnie and Eithne Guilfoyle. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax. The first book to. The studies in this volume cover such widely divergent languages as Irish, Welsh, The first book to take a cross-linguistic comparative approach to verb initial. The Syntax of Verb Initial Languages. Edited by Andrew Carnie and Eithne Guilfoyle. Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax, no. Oxford: Oxford University. The idea that verb-initial languages might constitute a uniform set has been discredited at least since McCloskey, and this volume amply demonstrates that. In syntax, verb-initial (V1) word order is a word order in which the verb appears before the subject and the object. In the more narrow sense, this term is used specifically to describe the word order of V1 languages (a V1 language being a language where the word order is obligatorily or predominantly verb-initial). languages also have nominal predicate fronting, as in Irish, suggesting that (1b) does not distinguish different types of verb-initial language. Irish (Doherty). While verb-initial (V1) clauses occur in non-V1 languages, this chapter .. (10) Word order in narrow syntax: The major constituents of the. The modern Celtic languages are comprised of Irish, (Scots) Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton) These languages pose the fundamental problem for linguistic thought. Carnie, Andrew, and Guilfoyle, Eithne, ed. () The Syntax of Verb Initial Languages. Oxford University Press, hardback ISBN X, pp., \$One of these was the narrow syntax assumption: order of postverbal elements in verb-initial languages.

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