

Prydonian High Gallifreyan by kiwikami

Kì Tsar cì kìsimb ca kataigr, **kaskì** kì *Xròk* ca kahòrs.

“The lion scratches the tiger **that** *bites* the horse.”

Kì Tsar cì kìsimb ca kataigr, **kìskì** kì *Xròk* ca kahòrs.

“The lion **that** *bites* the horse scratches the tiger.”

Kì Tsar cì kìsimb ca kataigr, **kìska** kì *Xròk* cì kìhòrs.

“The lion scratches the tiger **that** the horse *bites*.”

WORD ORDER

SOV

SVO

VSO

VOS

OVS

OSV

SOV	41%	VOS	2%
SVO	35%	OVS	1%
VSO	7%	OSV	0.3%

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VSO	7%	OSV	0.3%

No Dominant Order ~14%!



(1) The thing you're talking
about.

(2) What you're saying about
it.

N-MOD

Rock

Rock a big one, as it turns
out

V-O
Eating
Eating an acorn, as it
happens

V-O
N-MOD

O-V
MOD-N

Modifiers
Adjectives
Possessors
Relative Clauses

Adpositions follow suit *because* they usually come from verbs modifying objects or nouns possessed by other nouns.



face (of the) mountain
in front of the mountain

P-N < N-MOD



moutain('s) face
the mountain in front
N-P < MOD-N



touch mountain
to the mountain
P-N < V-O



mountain touch
the mountain to
N-P < O-V

Determiners (that, the, a, this, etc.) often treated like heads in syntax.

DET-N = head-initial
N-DET = head-final

Oedipus Rex

Oedipus, who is the king, as
it happens

I saw that man.
I saw that one, and it
happened to be a man.

Relative Clause-Noun Order

R-N

N-R

Relative Clause-Noun Order

R-N 17% N-R 70%

There are constraints on language that exist simply because of the way humans are and perceive time.

Heavy Shift: Big stuff tends to get pushed off to the end, chronologically.

I gave him the book.
I gave the book to him.

I gave him the book I was
telling you about the other
day that my friend Jackie
was absolutely *raving* about.

I gave the book I was telling
you about the other day that
my friend Jackie was
absolutely *raving* about to
him.

It's too long! We forget what
the hell verb it was!

Relative clauses, by definition, tend to be longer and more complex than simple nouns (they're little clauses, after all).

Thus, this is quite common:

SOV

N-P

MOD-N

G-N

N-REL

Also the reason why you
see alternate possessive
strategies.

He's the son of that guy I
was telling you about the
other day.

He's that guy I was telling
you about the other day's
son.

This stuff isn't *impossible*,
just harder to process.
Easier to do something
different.

Like everything else, word order can change over time.

Things that drive word order change:

- Loss of case.
- Emphasis.
- Deemphasis.

Latin
SOV
Case

Romance
SVO
No Case

Spanish

La mujer le llamó al director.

Deemphasis: Taking a full NP and pushing it later in the clause.

Spanish

La mujer le llamó al director.

She called him, the director.

**Notice: Spanish pronouns
still have case!**

Spanish

La mujer el director llamó.

Potentially ambiguous!

Spanish

La mujer le llamó.

*Not ambiguous, but now we
don't know who she called!*

Spanish

La mujer le llamó al director.

¡Perfecto!

**Emphasis: Taking a full NP
and pulling it out to first
position.**

Him I like!

“Hooray!” the boy said/said
the boy.

First position is always privileged and always a potential slot for emphasis because it's the first thing you say.

Dothraki

Tih mahrazh khales.

/saw man-NOM khal-ACC/

“The man saw the khal.”

Dothraki

Mahrazh tih khales.

/man-NOM saw khal-ACC/

“*The man saw the khal.*”

French
grand homme “great man”
homme grand “tall man”

All three of these things
CAN happen, but they never
NEED to happen.

Questions?



Questions

Yes/No Questions

WH-Questions

Yes/No Questions or Polar Questions: Questions that call for an answer of “yes” or “no”, usually.

Are you going to the sock
hop?

Do you enjoy talking about
sock hops?

Question Particle
Verb Form
Both
Intonation
Word Order Change

Question Particle

Katabat haḫḫa al-kitāb.

“She wrote this book.”

Hal katabat haḫḫa al-kitāb?

“Did she write this book?”

Question Particle

Kono-pon o kakimashita.

“She wrote this book.”

Kono-pon o kakimashita ka?

“Did she write this book?”

Question Particle Sources

Words like “whether/if”,
“yes”, “no”, “perhaps/
maybe”, “come”, “or”.

Are we going to the store,
or...?

Verb Form
eě'e-čó-y
/go-PRES-Q/
“Are you going?”

Verb Form Sources
Similar to “conditional” or
other “optative”-style
modalities. Also same as
question particles.

Intonation

Mi mamá me llamó ayer.

¿Mi mamá me llamó ayer?

Word Order Change
Ich habe jetzt vier Bücher.
Habe ich jetzt vier Bücher?

Verb is pulled out in front
(result of emphasis).

Tonight

- (1) MA7: Going over stuff we did past two days.
- (2) PA17: More animals!

WH-Questions: Questions that have a word that has a “w” and “h” in it in English: where, what, who, when, why, how.

Intonation often differs:
Did you eat the crackers?
Who ate the crackers?
The cat ate the crackers.

Two major placements for WH-Words:

(1) Sentence-initially

(2) In situ

Spanish

Pregunté a Ernesto.

¿A quién preguntaste?

¿Preguntaste a quién?

Many languages *allow* WH-words to be in situ (with a meaning difference); some require it.

Who(m) did you talk to?
You talked to *who(m)*?

The “movement”, again, just
emphasis: Initial position is
privileged.

Restrictions on two WH-words usually reducible to restrictions on two points of emphasis.

Placement

WH-Word Initial: 29%

WH-Word Elsewhere: 68%

Mixed Placement: 3%

Sources for WH-Words
Usually a basic “WH”-y
word. It’s then built into
others.

Sources for WH-Words

Many languages don't distinguish "what" and "who" *or* "what" and "which".

Sources for WH-Words
Other WH-words usually
reducible to “what time”,
“what place”, “what way”,
“what one”, etc.

RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative Clause: A full sentence whose function is to describe another noun.

¡El carro, que me vendió, es
un limón!

“The car that he sold me is a
lemon!”

¡El carro, que me vendió, es
un limón!

“The car that he sold me is a
lemon!”

Relative clause *usually* has
a role for the target of
relativization.

the squirrel that I saw

Relative Clause

the squirrel that I saw

Target of Relativization

Strategies for ToR Gap Resumptive Pronoun Internally Headed

the squirrel that I saw ___

Gap Strategy

the squirrel that I saw ____

Resumptive Pronoun

the squirrel that I saw him

Internally Headed

I saw the squirrel ran away.
My daughter loves I saw the
squirrel.

Unrelated

The cat my mother talked to
my aunt is happy.

The cat there's a TV show is
happy.

Accessibility Hierarchy

Subject/Absolutive > Direct

Object/Ergative > Indirect

Object > Oblique > Genitive

> Object of Comparative

the cat that saw me
the cat I saw
the cat I gave a fish
the cat for whom I slave
the cat whose tail is long
the cat I'm larger than

the cat that saw me
*the cat I saw

the cat that saw me
the cat that I saw it

Agreement with Gap
the cat that I saw ___
the cat whom I saw ___

that = invariant
who = case marked

Relative Pronouns =
generally agree with case/
gender/number of the role of
the *embedded* clause.

The cat that I saw is happy.

Subject

Direct Object

The cat that I saw is happy.

Direct Object (Like Embedded Clause)

The cat whom I saw is happy.

Pronoun Placement

The cat whom I saw is happy.

Pronoun Placement

The cat I saw whom is happy.

Relative Clause Placement

Havzi me tih anha layafa.

/cat that saw I is-happy/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Relative Clause Placement

Havzi me tih anha layafa.

/cat that saw I is-happy/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Relative Clause Placement

Ūndan lue kēli kirine issa.

/I-saw whom cat happy is/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Relative Clause Placement

Ūndan lue kēli kirine issa.

/I-saw whom cat happy is/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Relative Clause Word Order

Havzi me tih anha layafa.

/cat that saw I is-happy/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Relative Clause Word Order

Havzi me tih anha layafa.

/NOM COMP V NOM V/

“The cat I saw is happy.”

Old Dothraki
Tih anha hrazef.
/saw I horse/
“I saw the horse.”

Modern Dothraki
Anha tih hrazef.
/I saw horse/
“I saw the horse.”

Relative clauses often (not always, but often) preserve old word order.

German

Der Hund, der mich sah, ist
freundlich.

German
SOV > SVO

Relative Clause Decisions

(1) Are my relative clauses going to come *before* or *after* my targets of relativization?

Relative Clause Decisions
(2) Are my relative clauses
going to use a gap, a
resumptive pronoun, or be
internally-headed?

Relative Clause Decisions

(3) Are relative clauses going to use an invariant complimentizer or a relative pronoun?

Relative Clause Decisions

(4) How many nominal arguments in the hierarchy can be relativized?

Complementizer Sources

“That”, “this”, “the”, WH-word
(e.g. “which” or “where”),
“for”, nominalization, genitive.

Complementizer Sources

The man of my seeing.

The man seen by me.

Relative Pronoun

“That”, “this”, “the”, WH-word (e.g. “who” or “what”), older pronouns no longer used.

Eternally Confusing

Give it to me, who(?)
want(s?) to have it.

Tonight

(1) PA: Write up your new nouns!