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 Qin 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 trembled on the side of the road snapped.’
   (Wéi and Qin 2006: 251)

Standard Cantonese

*SVO order*

4.  *khoi3 mar22 lui33 jeu22 mar22 jok2*
   3SG sell vegetable as:well sell meat
   ‘S/he sells vegetable and sells meat.’

*Head noun right of modifiers*

5.  *η3 tsek3 η31 lou22 pin55 ts3 ar25 lem33 k35 luk3 tsec3 η31 yu34 -ts35*
   1SG CL bovine at road side step fall DEM CL cane break-PFV
   ‘The sugar cane that my buffalo trembled 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

(minimal A~C relative of B)

(B-ish A)

(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)
   l.sister  CL  very  feel:sorry  old.man  MOD  one  CL
   kianⁿ³³ ?aⁿ¹¹ kaiⁿ³³ niⁿ³³ saⁿ³³ taⁿ¹¹ seⁿ⁵⁵ tenⁿ³² paⁿ³³,
   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)
   (phaiⁿ³³ siaⁿ¹¹ hoⁿ¹¹ lienⁿ¹¹ 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, Bái languages, and Mru (Peterson 2005);¹

Burmese

8. 

\( thu \ di \ hsei: \ gonna \ me \)
\( 3 \ this \ medicine \ drink \)
\( ‘He’s going to take this medicine.’ \) (Myint Soe 1999: 132)

9. 

\( thu. \ le’ \ nyi’=pa’ \ ne. \ nga. \ kou \ la \ tou. \ te \)
\( 3Gen \ hand \ dirty \ with \ 1 \ OBJ \ come \ touch \)
\( ‘(He) touched me with his dirty hands.’ \) (Myint Soe 1999: 256)

Eastern Kayah Li (Karenic)

10. 

\( phremañ \ méthñ \ phrekhñ \ sì \ nñañ \)
\( woman \ look:see \ man \ CL \ two \)
\( ‘Some women saw two men.’ \) (Solnit 1997: 181)

11. 

\( ?a \ khññ \ tolññ \ sñklññ \ nè \ sñkhññ \)
\( 3 \ paddle \ pass \ boat \ PREP \ snag \)
\( ‘He paddled the boat past the snag (fallen log).’ \) (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 kör*
   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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Thai</th>
<th>Khmer</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
<th>E Kayah Li</th>
<th>Burmese</th>
<th>Hmong Njua</th>
<th>Mien</th>
<th>Cantonese</th>
<th>Nanning Pinghuà</th>
<th>Hui’an S Mín</th>
<th>Fuqing E Mín</th>
<th>Shao W Mín</th>
<th>Yichuan Gán</th>
<th>Fuyang Wú</th>
<th>Jīxí Huí</th>
<th>Guizhāng Wàixiàng</th>
<th>Suning C Mandarin</th>
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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).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thai</th>
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<th>Yichang Han</th>
<th>Fujian Wu</th>
<th>Jie Hui</th>
<th>Guangxi Wuzhong</th>
<th>Shandong C Mandarin</th>
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<td>VO(P)O: give me the book</td>
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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).