

Northern Zhuang

*SVO order*

2.    *de    gai    byaek        youhcaiɣ    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   caiɣ   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 tremped on the side of the road snapped.’  
      (Wéi and Qín 2006: 251)

Standard Cantonese

*SVO order*

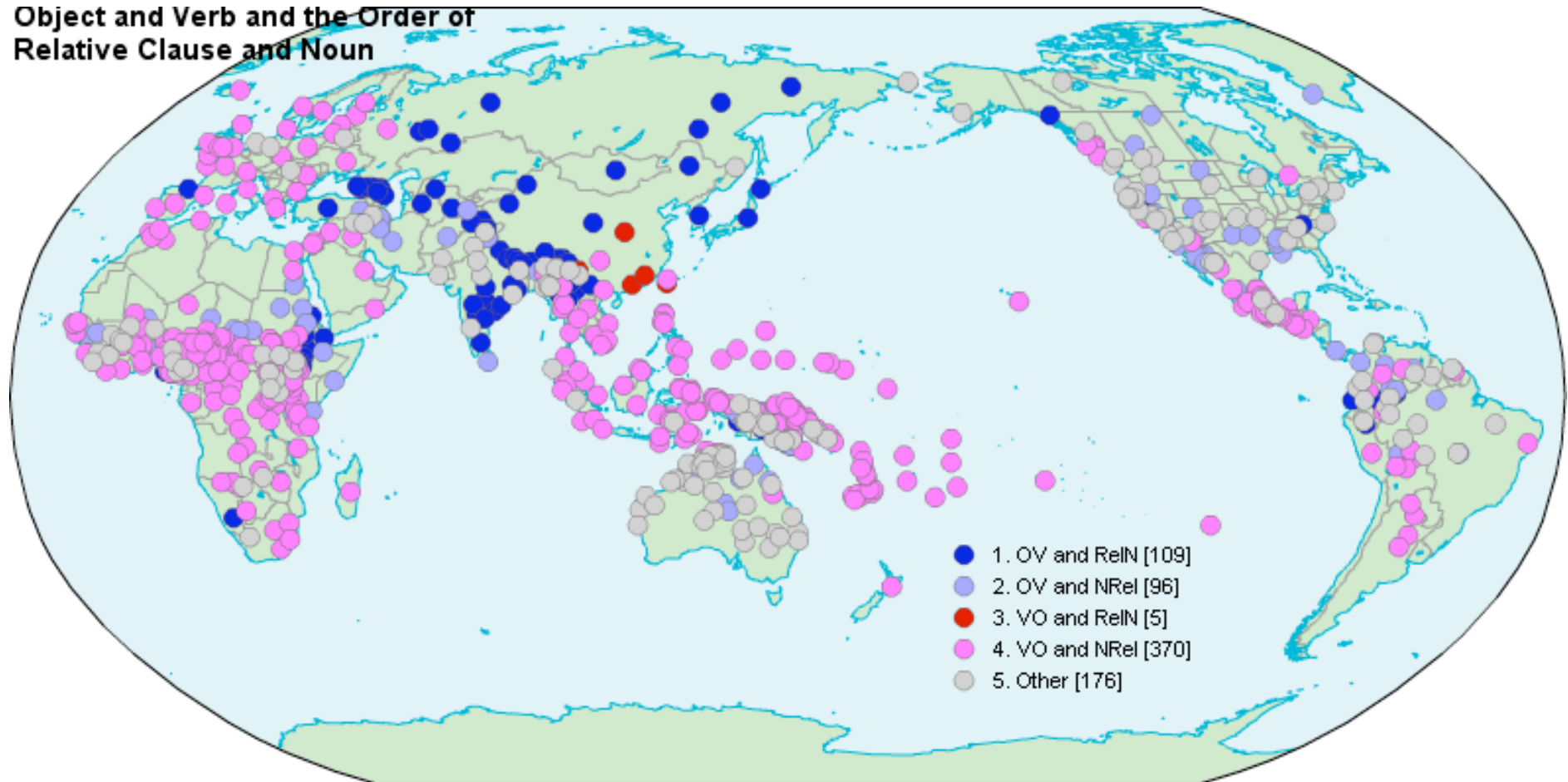
4.    佢        賣        菜                又        賣        肉  
      *k<sup>h</sup>øy<sup>13</sup>    mai<sup>22</sup>    t<sup>h</sup>ɔi<sup>33</sup>        jɛu<sup>22</sup>        mai<sup>22</sup>    juk<sup>2</sup>*  
      3SG    sell        vegetable   as:well   sell        meat  
      ‘S/he sells vegetable and sells meat.’

*Head noun right of modifiers*

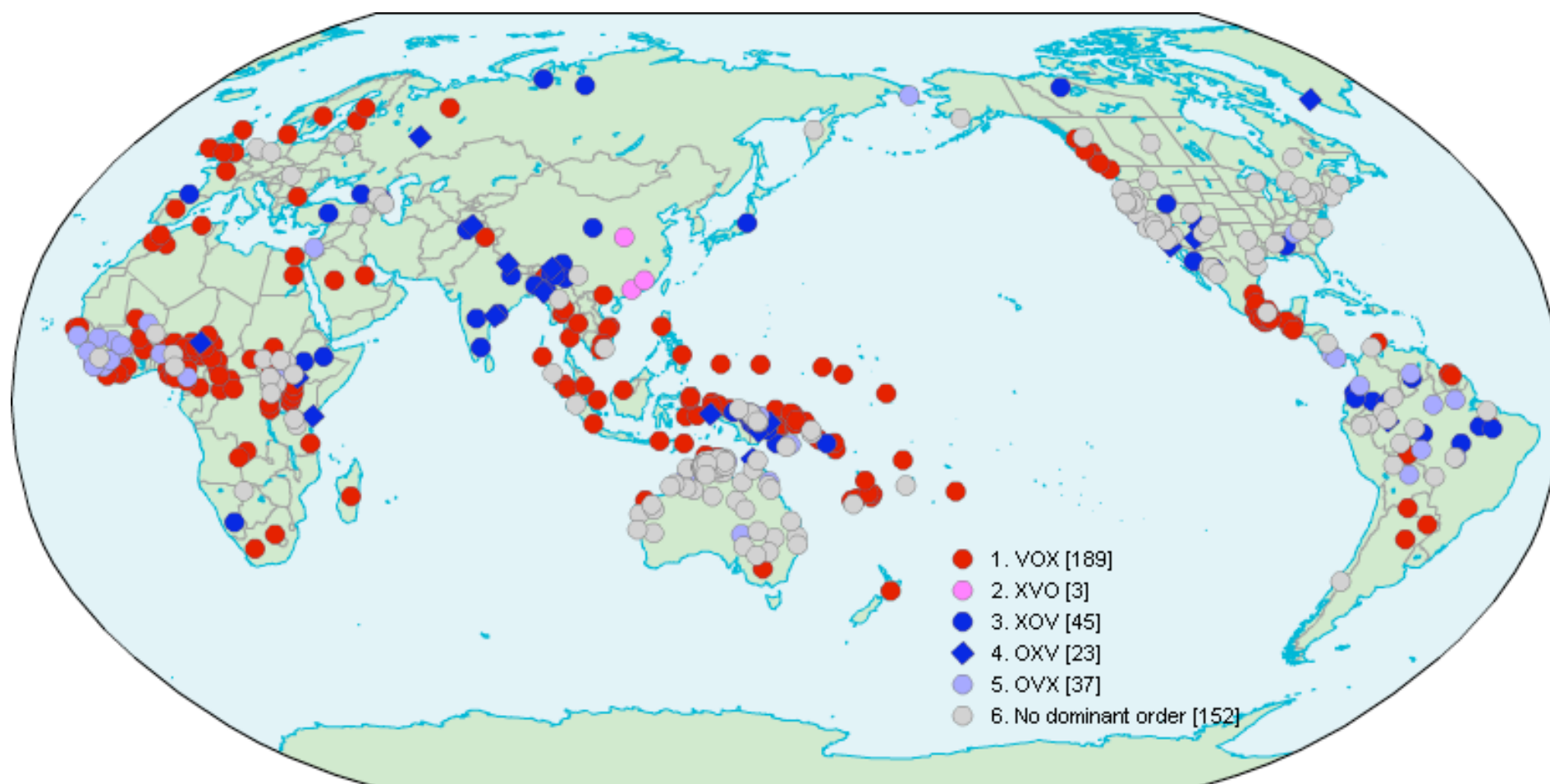
5.    我        隻        牛                喺        路        邊        踩        𨋖        嗰        碌        蔗        斷咗  
      *[ŋɔ<sup>13</sup>    tsek<sup>3</sup>    ŋɛu<sup>11</sup>        heɪ<sup>25</sup>    lou<sup>22</sup>    pin<sup>55</sup>    ts<sup>h</sup>ai<sup>25</sup>    lɛm<sup>33</sup>]    kɔ<sup>25</sup>    luk<sup>5</sup>    tse<sup>33</sup>    t<sup>h</sup>yn<sup>24</sup>-tsɔ<sup>25</sup>*  
      1SG   CL   bovine   at        road   side   step        fall        DEM   CL   cane   break-PFV  
      ‘The sugar cane that my buffalo tremped 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

Object and Verb and the Order of Relative Clause and Noun

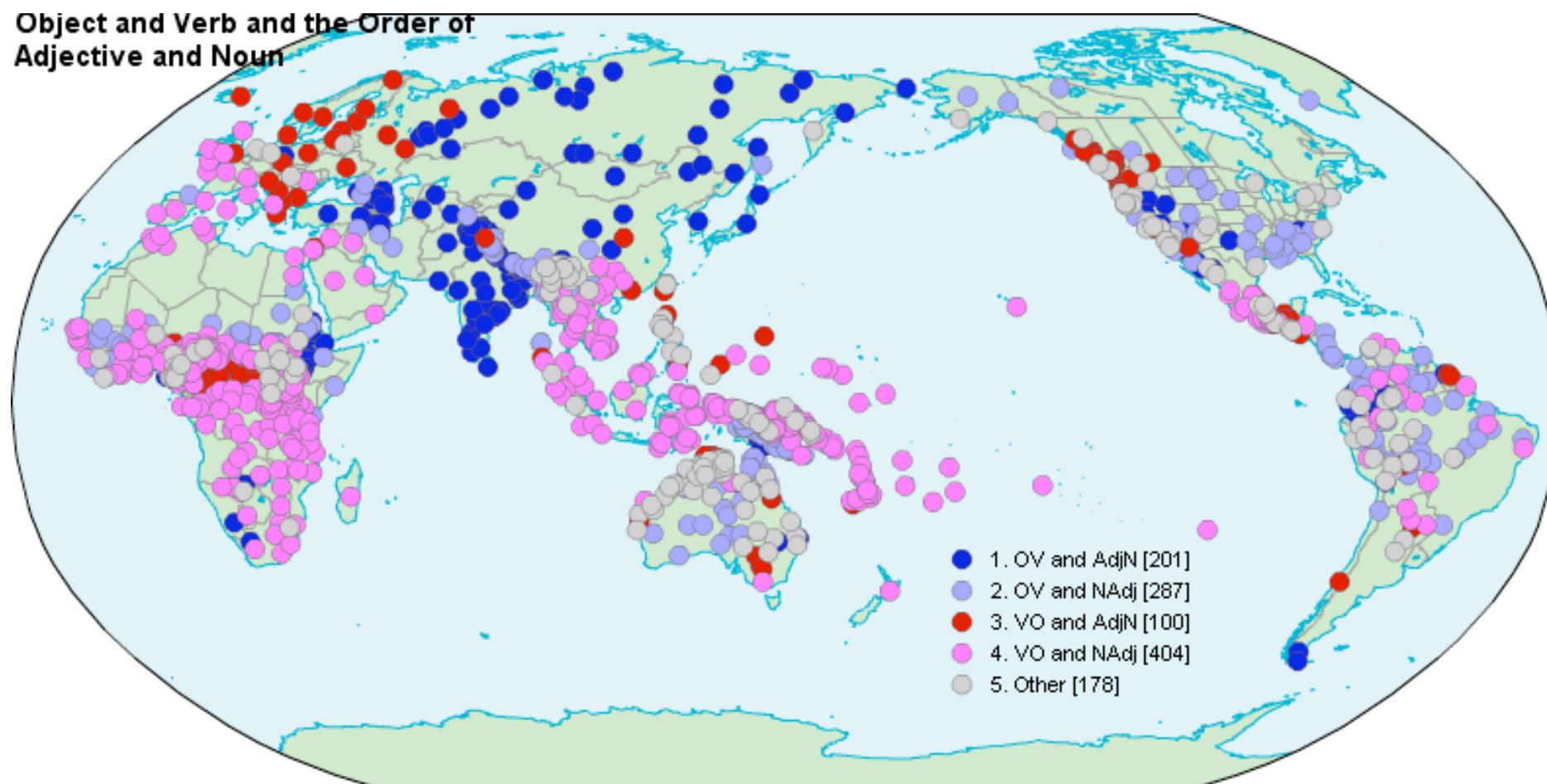


Feature 84A: Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb  
by Matthew S. Dryer (with Orin D. Gensler )

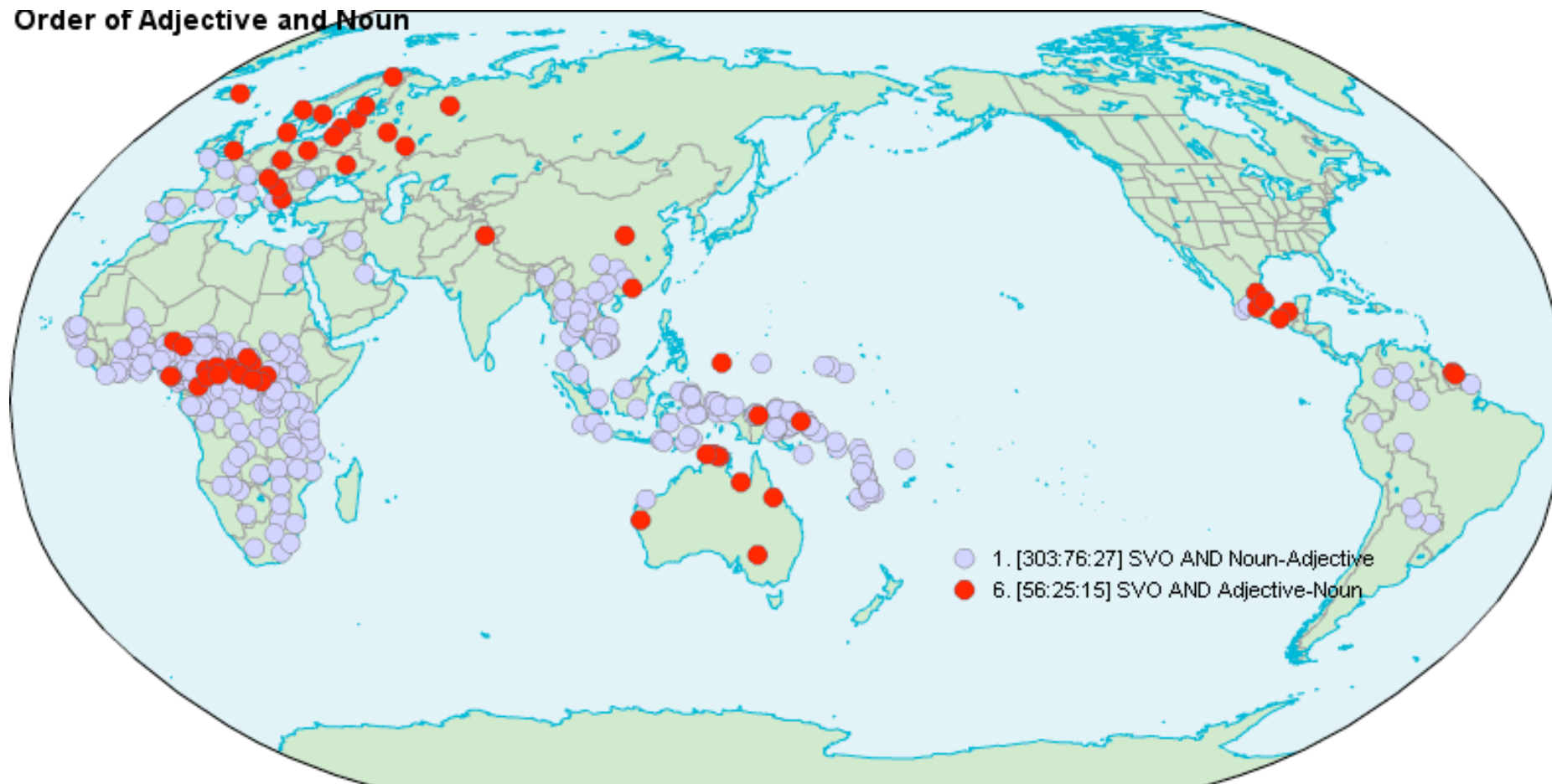


# Feature 97A: Relationship between the Order of Object and Verb and the Order of Adjective and Noun by Matthew S. Dryer

Object and Verb and the Order of Adjective and Noun

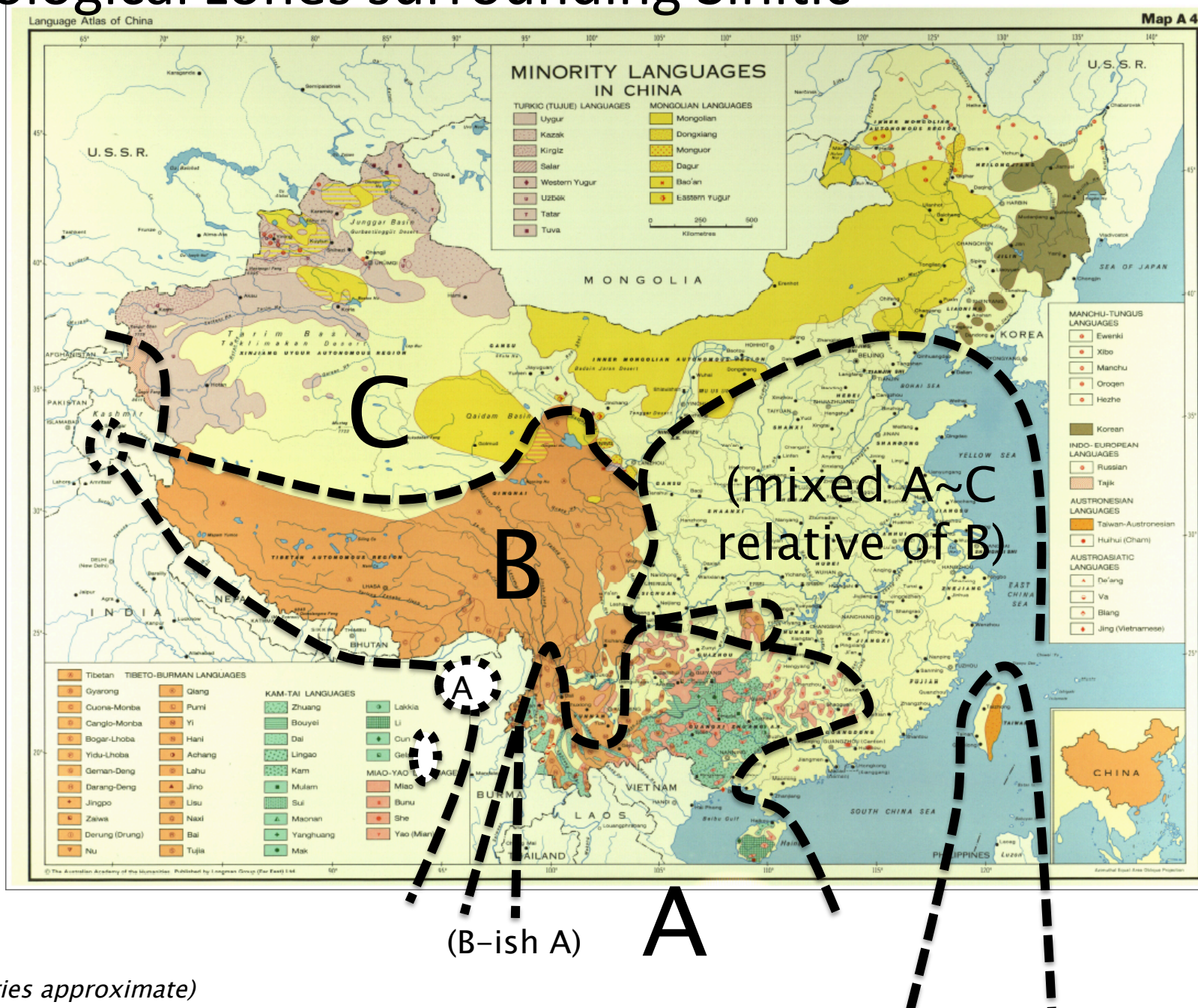


## Order of Adjective and Noun





# 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.    *ʔa<sup>11</sup>thai<sup>11</sup> se<sup>11</sup> phai<sup>33</sup>siaŋ<sup>11</sup> ho<sup>11</sup>lien<sup>11</sup> ʔa<sup>11</sup>kai<sup>33</sup> sa<sup>33</sup> ta<sup>11</sup> se<sup>55</sup>,*  
1.sister   CL   very                feel:sorry   old.man   MOD   one   CL  
*kian<sup>33</sup> ʔa<sup>11</sup>kai<sup>33</sup> ni<sup>33</sup> sa<sup>33</sup> ta<sup>11</sup> se<sup>55</sup> ten<sup>32</sup> pa<sup>33</sup>,*  
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)  
(*phaï<sup>33</sup>siaŋ<sup>11</sup> ho<sup>11</sup>lien<sup>11</sup>* 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);<sup>1</sup>

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 méthΛ    phrekhū    sí    nā*  
      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.<sup>1</sup>

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 bizniñ 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	Huì'ān S Mǐn	Fúqīng E Mǐn	Shàowǔ W Mǐn	Yíchūn Gàn	Fùyáng Wú	Jīxī Huǐ	Gǔzhāng Wǎxiāng	Suǐníng 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 Sinitic 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	Náning Píng huà	Huì 'án S Mìn	Fúqīng E Mìn	Shàowǔ W Mìn	Yìchūn Gǎn	Fùyáng Wú	Jìxí Huì	Gǔzhāng Wǎxiāng	Suǐníng 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	11 <sup>½</sup>	1	11	8 <sup>½</sup>	9 <sup>¼</sup>	8 <sup>½</sup>	3	5 <sup>½</sup>	6 <sup>½</sup>	8 <sup>½</sup>	3		3 <sup>¼</sup>	

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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