

Workshop Distributed Predicative Syntax (SPOVX)
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Checklist for the Word Order Subject-Predicative-Object-Verb-Other

1. MORPHOLOGICAL STATUS OF THE VERB

- 1.1. What is the form of the verb in the SPOVX construction:
verb stem; verbal noun; inflected verb stem?
- 1.2. Is only one of these forms allowed or are several forms allowed?
- 1.3. If several forms are allowed:
 - 1.3.1. Is there an alternation between several forms for the same TAM distinction? What conditions the alternation?
 - 1.3.2. Or do TAM distinctions differ in the kind of verb form they take? If so, describe the conditioning of the different verb forms.
- 1.4. If the TAM distinction in question is a progressive or another imperfective construction, is the verb form:
 - 1.4.1. identical to a verbal noun (citation form of the noun; abstract noun in a noun phrase) (see also questions 2.4 and 5.4.2)
 - 1.4.2. different from a verbal noun? if so, what form does it take: verb stem? Inflected verb?
- 1.5. If the verb is inflected, what marking can it take?

2. STATUS OF THE OBJECT NOUN PHRASE

- 2.1. Does the object behave like a true object? For example, can it be pronominalized?
- 2.2. If the preverbal object is pronominalized, what form does it take: object pronoun; possessive pronoun; other?
- 2.3. Does the object behave like a modifier noun in a possessive construction and describe the construction?
- 2.4. Does the form of the verb argue for an analysis as associative construction?
- 2.5. Object and modifiers:
 - 2.5.1. Can the preverbal object be modified (by another noun, adjective, numeral, demonstrative, determiner)?
 - 2.5.2. If not, what is the syntactic position of modifiers bearing on the object noun?
 - 2.5.3. Can the object noun phrase and the verb be separated by another constituent, like an adverb? Are disjunct objects allowed? (Object noun preceding the verb, its modifier following the verb). If so, which modifiers can follow the verb? (Modifier noun; adjective; numeral; quantifier; demonstrative; other).
- 2.6. Object incorporation and verb-noun compounding
 - 2.6.1. If the preverbal object cannot be modified or be separated syntactically from its verb, is there evidence that the object is incorporated into the verb? What kind of evidence is there for incorporation (phonological, syntactic)?
 - 2.6.2. If there is verb + noun compounding resembling a verb with its object noun, does the structure of the compound reflect syntactic order? does it allow for a different order?

3 POSITION OF NON-SUBJECT NOUN PHRASES

- 3.1. What is the position of non-subject phrases with respect to the verb:
 - 3.1.1. Direct object
 - 3.1.2. Indirect object
 - 3.1.3. Locative object
 - 3.1.4. Depictive noun phrase: e.g. 'pieces' in 'he cut the rope (into) pieces; he said the matter (in) nice words; and secondary objects: e.g. 'Akin' in 'we call the child Akin'
 - 3.1.5. Adpositional phrases (prepositional and postpositional phrases)
 - 3.1.6. Adverbs (locative and temporal adverbs)
 - 3.1.7. Ideophones
- 3.2. Which kinds of object can precede the verb?
- 3.3. Which kinds of object can follow the verb? (for word order alternations, see 5)
- 3.4. How many objects can precede the verb? One? more than one? which ones?
- 3.5. Do nominal and pronominal objects show an identical or different syntactic behaviour
- 3.6. What is the status and the position of the complement of a nominalized verb that is itself an object of the main verb?

4. PREDICATIVE MARKER

- 4.1. What is the morphological status of the predicative marker?
 - 4.1.1. Is it a purely grammatical marker or does it have a lexical root (copula)?
Is it a free word or a clitic? What arguments are there for either status?
 - 4.1.2. If the predicative marker is a clitic, to what word does it adjoin and in what direction?
- 4.2. What notions are expressed by the predicative marker: tense; aspect; mood; negation; focus; clause status (dependent), other notions?
 - 4.2.1. Do predicative markers combine some of these notions into one morpheme?
- 4.3. Is more than one predicative marker allowed?
 - 4.3.1. Is the predicative marker following the subject the only inflectional marker in the sentence?
- 4.4. If not, where does inflectional marking occur:
 - 4.4.1. on the verb?
 - 4.4.2. on the subject pronoun?
 - 4.4.3. predicative markers in other positions in the sentence (sentence-initial, post-verbal, sentence-final)?
- 4.5. Do predicative markers resemble other morphemes in the language?
 - 4.5.1. Is there evidence that they stem from lexical morphemes?
 - 4.5.2. Is the marker following the subject always a predicative marker, or are auxiliaries also allowed in this position? (auxiliaries are defined here as verbs that occur both as grammatical markers and as main verbs)

5. WORD ORDER VARIATION

- 5.1. Is the order Subject-Predicative marker-Object-Verb-Other the only word order allowed in the language?

- 5.2. If other word orders are allowed, which ones?
- 5.3. Are alternative word orders grammatically obligatory in a certain construction?
- 5.4. What conditions alternative word order?
 - 5.4.1. The presence of a predicative marker (or auxiliary)?
 - 5.4.2. The type of tense/aspect/mood distinction? (e.g. progressive versus other)
 - 5.4.3. Negation versus affirmative
 - 5.4.4. Object noun phrase versus object pronoun?
 - 5.4.5. The type of object noun phrase?
- 5.5. Do word order alternations involve a change in verb form (verb stem versus verbal noun)?
- 5.6. Are alternative word orders conditioned by pragmatic factors?
 - 5.6.1. Are word order alternations conditioned by focus?
 - 5.6.2. Is there a word order alternation between focus and non.focus constituents?
 - 5.6.3. Does a certain position in the sentence have a certain function in information structure? E.g., Aghem:
Immediately After Verb Position = focus position;
Immediately Before Verb Position = background position
- 5.7. Though clitics are bound morphemes, they may show a particular behaviour in word order alternations. Are there any word order alternations involving a change of position of clitics in a sentence?