18. SERIAL VERBS

(1) Òzó ghá lè èvabàré khieɓ (Edo)
Ozo will cook food sell
‘Ozo will cook the food and sell it’

(2) Òzó ghá suà àkhé dè
Ozo will push pot fall
‘Ozo will push the pot down (so that it falls)’

(3) Mary wanted to try to begin to learn to ski

(4) The Serial Verb Parameter (Baker 2001):
a. Only one verb can be contained in each verb phrase (English, etc.)
b. More than one verb can be contained in a single verb phrase (Edo, Thai, etc.)

(5) Polysynthesis

Head Directionality—Optional Polysynthesis

Subject Side

beginning

Verb Attraction

no

Serial Verbs

no *

* English

* Indonesian

* Khmer
(6) The Verb Attraction Parameter (Baker 2001: 132):
   a. Tense auxiliaries attract the verb to their position. (Welsh)
   b. Verbs attract tense auxiliaries to their position. (English)

Edo has SVC construction, but not with the past tense suffix -re:
(7) Èvbàré oë Ôzo lé-rè
   food  FOCUS Ozo cook-PAST
   ‘It is food that Ozo has cooked’

(8) * Èvbàré oë Ôzo lé-rè khie(-ref)
   food  FOCUS Ozo cook-PAST sell(-PAST)
   ‘It is food that Ozo has cooked and sold’

(9) Serial verb types and basic word order (Schiller 1990: 394)

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Four types of serial verb constructions (Schiller 1990):
A. \( V + V \) (Lahu; Matisoff 1973)
(10) ðəh³ ði qëë chi³ tõ pì³ ve
    we had-to again lift out for \( P_{\text{univ(affirmation)}} \)
    ‘We had to lift (it) out again for (them)

B. \( V + V’ \) (Kurux; Ekka 1971)
(11) e³ jo³ manì³u⁵n cië³u⁵n
    I-nom servant be-pres-1sg do-temporarily-pres-1sg
    ‘I am becoming a servant temporarily’

C. \( V’ + V’ \) (Sranan; Sebba 1987)
(12) Kofi naki Amba kiri
    Kofi hit Amba kill
    ‘Kofi struck Amba dead’

D. Finite \( V’ + Finite V’ \) (Saramaccan; Byrne 1990)
(13) a bi fëfi di wösu kabà
    he TNS paint the house finish
    ‘He had painted the house already’

SVC within minimalist work — the theory presented in Gruber and Collins 1997
Assumes theory presented in Hale and Keyser 1993 — underlying structures are complex arrangement of verbal heads
Intuition behind the analysis is that SVCs correspond to Hale-Keyser structures before incorporation

(14) The stone knocked the wall apart.

(15) òkóta gbá ògiri fó (Yoruba)
stone hit wall break
‘The stone smashed the wall’

Both derive from a structure like (16):

(16)
```
  VP  
 / 
 VP ?
 / 
 NP ? Conj VP
 / 
 the stone V ei NP, V AP
 / 
 knock the wall apart
```

(17) The Serial Verb Parameter (Gruber and Collins 1997):

a. SVC Languages: Verbs incorporate into TMP (temporal) at LF
b. Non-SVC Languages: Verbs incorporate into TMP/CSQ (temporal/consequence) before Spell-out

(18) o jì mmà bhá-a jí (Igbo)
3sg hold knife peel-ASP yam
‘S/he peeled a yam with a knife’

(19) ùkwúte kù-jì-rì ája
stone hit-break-AFF wall
‘The stone smashed the wall’

(20) Gruber and Collins 1997 on Igbo:

a. Incorporation of verbs into CSQ occurs before Spell-Out
b. Incorporation of verbs into TMP occurs at LF

REFERENCES
19. PREPOSITION STRANDING

(1)  a. Who did you talk to?
    b. Mary was spoken to. (pseudo-passive)

(2)  a. John talked to Harry about Mary.
    b. Who did you talk to Harry about?
    c. #Mary was talked to Harry about.

(3)  a. He put the coffee cup on the desk.
    b. Which desk did you put the coffee cup on?
    c. #The desk was put the coffee cup on.

(4)  a. She sat carefully on the chair.
    b. #Which chair did she sit carefully on?
    c. #The chair was sat carefully on. (perhaps acceptable, but clearly worse than b)

(5)  a. Who did you read a book about?
    b. #Who did you destroy a book about?

(6)  a. The bed was slept in by John.
    b. #Cleveland was slept in by John.

(7)  a. What did you read a book about?
    b. #What did you read John’s book about?

(8) *Le gars que je vais voter pour (STANDARD FRENCH; ok in CANADIAN FRENCH)
    ‘The guy that I’m going to vote for’

(9) *Quién mandó la carta a? (SPANISH)
    who sent-he the letter to

(10) *Kim rozmawiałeś (POLISH —{Borsley, 1983 #673})
    whom (you) talked to
    ‘Who did you talk to?’

(11) a. Wir sprachen seit Tagen über diese Tatsache. (GERMAN)
    we talked for days about this fact
    b. *Diese Tatsache sprachen wir seit Tagen über.

(12) a. Zhangsanji, wo gen tai bu shou (CHINESE — Huang 1982)
    I with he not familiar
    ‘Zhangsan, I am not familiar with him’

    b. *Zhangsanji, wo gen ti bu shou
    I with not familiar
    ‘Zhangsan, I am not familiar with’

(13) a. Msangalatsi a-ku-yend-a ndi ndodo (CHICHEWA — Baker 1988)
    entertainer SP-PRES-walk-ASP with stick
    ‘The entertainer is walking with a stick’
b. *Ndodo i-ku-yend-edw-a ndi stick SP-PRES-walk-PASS-ASP with ‘The sick is being walked with’

(14) Hvilken måde gjorde han det på? (DANISH) which way did he it in ‘How did he do it?’

(15) To who(m) did you talk?

(16) a. You talked [to who] > You [talked to] who > Who i did you > [talk to] ei?
    b. e was spoken [to Mary] > e [spoken to] Mary > Mary i was [spoken to] ei

(17) a. Which shoes did you [walk across Europe in]? (Jones 1987)
    b. Which of the two knives did you [pay twice for]? (Inada 1981)

(18) a. The job is being [worked quite seriously at].
    b. The proposal had been [argued vehemently both for and against].

(19) a. *John looked at Mary and Bill ___ Sue.(Koster 1986)
    b. John looked at Mary and Bill ___ at Sue.

(20) a. John looked at [the woman he loved] very often.
    b. John looked very often [at the woman he loved]
    c. *John looked at very often [the woman he loved].

(21) What did you [talk to that guy ___ about] ___ who was here yesterday? (Levine 1984)

(22) a. Which problems has Harry been [[talked to] e about] e?
    b. Who would you like to be [[sung to] e by] e?

(23) a. Nanga san u koti a brede? (SRANAN) with what you cut the bread
    b. *San u koti a brede nanga? what you cut the bread with

(24) a. P = [-N,uV] (Rizzi 1991)
    b. P = [uN,-V] (Pollock 1989)

(25) (Klipple 1997):
    a. French verbs incorporate Direction/Aspect
    b. English verbs do not incorporate Direction/Aspect — rather it is encoded in the preposition

(26) a. Put the noodles *(in).
    b. Mets les pâtes.

(27) a. John came in.
    b. Jean est entré.

(28) a. go down
b. descendre
(29) a. shut up
(30) a. He entered (*into) the room.
    b. Il est entré *(dans) la sale.

(31) a. *[It would be hard to find a table], I think that e1
    b. *[Go home now] we should e1
    c. *[Books about language acquisition], I think that we should read those
    d. *[What] did you eat beans and e1
(32) *Quel candidat as-tu voté pour e1?

(33) a. Mary went in the room / in.
    b. Marie est allé dans sa chambre / *dans.
    c. María entró en la sala / *en

(34) a. John is standing a short distance behind the house.
    b. I want John off my ship.
    c. I like my breakfast in bed.
(35) a. *Jean se trouve une petite distance derrière la maison.
    b. *La maison est dix mètres haute.
    c. Johann steht ein gutes Stück hinter dem Haus.
    d. Je veux Jean dans ma classe.
    e. Avec Pierre pour guide, nous avons visité Florence. (Milner 1978)
(36) a. auf den Berg herauf
    b. im Tal unten
    c. unter der Brücke durch

(37) a. Who did you give all those books about golf to?
    b. Which burner did you leave the pot on?
(38) a. auf den Berg herauf
    b. im Tal unten
    c. unter der Brücke durch
(40)  a. Which shoes did you walk across Europe in? (=17a)
b. Which ball park did Ruth hit the most home runs in?
c. Which knife shall we use to cut the turkey with?
d. Which red-headed man is Mary standing beside?
(41)  a. John decided on the boat.
b. What did John decide on?
(42)  Which floor did John decide on the boat on?
(43)  a. John climbed up the mountain despite the storm.
b. #What did John climb up the mountain despite? (Takami 1988: 324)
(5)    a. Who did you read a book about?
b. #Who did you destroy a book about?
(44)  a. VP  
     V  |  NP  |  PP  
    read | a book |   
   |   P  |  NP  
  about | what |
 b. VP  
     V  |  NP  |  PP  
    destroy | read | a book |
   |   P  |  NP  |
  about | what |
(45)  a. Which former party official did the Red Guard destroy more books about: Lin Piao or Liu Shao-Chi?
b. The party official that I would really like to destroy a book about is Chao En-Lai.
(46)  a. The man that I went to England without speaking to. (Chomsky 1982)
b. A guy that you’d better check your cash before you go to buy more beer with. (Jones 1987)
c. Which man did the bank go out of business because they lent too much money to?
(47)  a. #What did John bleed after cutting his finger with?
b. That’s the knife which John bled like a stuck pig after cutting his finger with.
(48)  a. #Who did you leave without talking to?
b. Which creditors did John die without having paid off his debts to?
(49)  a. Which city did you witness the destruction of?
b. Reports which the government prescribes the height of the lettering on the covers of ___ are invariably boring. (Ross 1967: 109)
(50)  a. Who did you buy / see John’s portraits of?
b. This is the story that I haven’t been able to get Mary’s version of.
c. Which symphony do you hate Karajan’s interpretation of?
(51)  a. #Who did you buy / see John’s portrait of?
b. #Which actress did you buy Picasso’s portrait of?
c. #Who did you buy John’s book about?
(52)  a. This is the city that I met three people from. (Chomsky 1986a: 81)
b. Which shop do you like the clothes in? (Cattell 1976: 42)
c. Which door should I give Tom the key to? (Ross 1967: 87)
d. This is the kind of solution that I fully recognize the problem with. (Kuno 1987: 27)

(53) a. #Which city did you meet the man from? (Chomsky 1986a: 80)
b. #What did you meet a man with? (Kuno 1987: 27)
c. #Who will John kiss Mary after a date with?

(2) a. John talked to Harry about Mary.
b. Who did you talk to Harry about?
c. #Mary was talked to Harry about.

(3) a. He put the coffee cup on the desk.
b. Which desk did you put the coffee cup on?
c. #The desk was put the coffee cup on.

(4) a. She sat carefully on the chair.
b. #Which chair did she sit carefully on?
c. #The chair was sat carefully on. (clearly worse than b)

(54) a. I talked to John / John was talked to
b. I ran to John / #John was run to

(55) 

\[ S \]
\[ \text{condition: } V_i \text{ and } P_i \text{ are interpretable as a 'semantic unit'} \]
\[ NP \]
\[ VP \]
\[ V' \]
\[ PP \]
\[ V_i \]
\[ PP \]
\[ P \]
\[ NP \]
\[ P_i \]
\[ NP \]

(56) a. John lives over the river.
b. #The river is lived over by John.

(57) a. John remained in London.
b. #London was remained in by John.

(58) a. Mary was writing on the desk.
b. This desk should not be written on.

(59) a. I’ll drink out of that glass.
b. This glass has definitely been drunk out of.

(60) a. Mary predeceased John’s parents.
b. Mary died before John’s parents.
c. #John’s parents were died before by Mary.

(61) a. I floated down the river on a raft.
b. The river was floated down on a raft.

(62) Mary was spoken to e

\[ [+\text{NOM}] \]
\[ [+\text{OBJ}] \]

REFERENCES
Newmeyer Handout #6


