

Verb Initial Languages

Egg summer school in Brno, July-August 2007

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The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the central issues (see below) surrounding the analysis of word order and some related properties of verb-initial languages. Our discussion will include the following topics

- The position of the subject
- The position of the finite verb
- Preverbal particles
- VSO and V2
- Predicate fronting; movement of V or remnant *v*P/VP?
- The anti-agreement/complementarity effect
- A-bar constructions

TENTATIVE OUTLINE

Day 1 – Introduction to facts; theoretical issues.

Recommended introductory readings:

- Carnie A. & E. Guilfoyle (eds). 2000. *The Syntax of Verb-Initial Languages*. OUP.
- Roberts, I. *Principles and Parameters in a VSO Language. A Case Study in Welsh*. OUP; chpt 1
- Tallerman, M. 2005. Celtic Languages. In G. Cinque & R. Kayne (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Syntax*. OUP. 839-879.
- Hendrick, R. 2000. Celtic Initials. In *The Syntax of Verb-Initial Languages*. A. Carnie & E. Guilfoyle (eds) OUP.

Day 2 – Position of subject & position of verb in Celtic VSO

Day 3 – Preverbal/pre-sentential particles; (anti)-agreement patterns

Day 4 – Head movement or phrasal movement/predicate fronting ?

Day 5 – A-bar constructions