



## Word-order and Constituent Structure in Naxi

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### Abstract

The superficial relatively free word-order in Naxi may give the impression that the language does not have much hierarchical structure the way English does. It is argued here that in fact Naxi has the same phrase structure as English, despite some differences in word-order. Evidence for constituency structure comes from certain diagnostics including coordination, ellipsis and movement. Binding and coreference facts, too, show that the subject indeed occurs in a structurally higher position than the object. A comparison with Japanese, a language that has the same basic SOV word-order further confirms the constituent structure and the structural positions of subject and object in Naxi, despite their other differences. The word-order in Naxi is not completely free, however. It is constrained by the presence of markers indicating the grammatical relations of the arguments, much like German.

### Keywords

diagnostics for constituency, subject-object asymmetry, comparative syntax

## 納西語語序及句子成分結構

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### 提要

從表面上看，納西語的語序好像比較靈活，容易給人一種句子無層次結構的印象。本文使用一般結構測試方法，包括並列、省略及移位，證明納西語的句法結構其實跟其他語言（如英語）是大致相同的。代詞的約束及共指的語言事實，顯示了主語在句子結構上處於比賓語高的位置。此結論跟同樣是 SOV 語言的日語大體一致，儘管這兩種語言在其他方面有所不同。納西語的語序實際上並非完全自由。論元的排序主要是主語先行，其他的語序則受到表語法關係的標記是否出現的限制。在這方面，納西語跟德語相似。

### 關鍵詞

句子成分結構，主語賓語不對稱，比較句法