

## Word-order variation

The following sentences all have approximately the same meaning. That is, technically speaking, their *truth conditions* are the same, but they emphasize different aspects of that meaning.

(Data adapted from Nemoto 1999)

- (1) Taroo-ga            o-mise    de    hon-o            kat-ta  
*Taroo-NOM            HON-store    at    book-ACC            buy-PAST*  
'Taroo bought (a) book at (the) store.'
- (2) hon-o            Taroo-ga            o-mise    de    kat-ta  
*book-ACC            Taroo-NOM            HON-store    at    buy-PAST*
- (3) o-mise    de    Taroo-ga            hon-o            kat-ta  
*HON-store    at    Taroo-NOM            book-ACC            buy-PAST*
- (4) hon-o            o-mise    de    Taroo-ga            kat-ta  
*book-ACC            HON-store    at    Taroo-NOM            buy-PAST*
- (5) Taroo-ga            hon-o            o-mise    de    kat-ta  
*Taroo-NOM            book-ACC            HON-store    at    buy-PAST*
- (6) o-mise    de    hon-o            Taroo-ga            kat-ta  
*HON-store    at    book-ACC            Taroo-NOM            buy-PAST*

- Which of these Japanese sentences are easy to draw X-bar trees for? Which raise problems?

Now consider the following English sentences.

- (7) Chris has devoured the burrito.
- (8) \* Chris has devoured. (*ungrammatical*)
- (9) What has Chris devoured?

- Is there anything that sentence (9) might have in common with the Japanese examples above? (Linguistics majors should be able to come up with a proposal. If this is your first exposure to syntax, give it some thought and see what you can think of.)