Japanese: Syntactic structure

Consider the following data from Japanese. (A hyphen shows a morpheme boundary inside a word.) These examples are carefully chosen so that the word categories match their English translations (this is not always the case in reality!).

• What does the X-bar schema for Japanese look like: What is the position of the complement? Of the specifier?
• What other aspects of Japanese syntax look either similar to, or different from, English?

Note: Japanese main-clause subjects are often marked with the “topic marker” wa instead of the ga suffix that is shown here. As a consequence, some of the sentences shown below may sound a little odd without a prior conversational context.

kono hon  wataʃi-no hon
‘this book’  ‘my book’

kono hon de  wataʃi-no tomodatʃi kara
‘with this book’  ‘from my friend’

kono hon-o katta  wataʃi-no hon-o jonda
‘...bought this book’  ‘...read my book’

Aya-ga kono hon-o katta.  Ken-ga wataʃi-no hon-o jonda.

Aya-ga kono hon-o katta ka?
‘Did Aya buy this book?’

wataʃi-ga Ken-ga kono hon-o jonda to omou.
‘I think that Ken read this book.’