Modifiers

X-bar theory

XP

YP

specifier

WP

modifier/adjunct

ZP

modifier/adjunct

X^o

HP

complement
Modifiers

(1)  a. a large small shirt
     b. a small large shirt

(2)  a. a shirt [that's large] [that's small]
     b. a shirt [that's small] [that's large]

(3)  a. a common wrong answer
     b. a wrong common answer
Modifiers

NP
  Det
    a
  AdjP
    large
  X'
  AdjP
    small
  X'
  N
    shirt
Modifiers

NP
  Det
    a
  X'
    X'
      N
        shirt
      (relative clause)
      (relative clause)
       that's small
       that's large
Modifiers
Modifiers

The hierarchical ordering of adverbs, when sorted by meaning, is invariant across languages.

*later he produced:* a similar result for adjectives
Modifiers

no longer > always

a. **Italian**
   Da allora, non ha **più sempre** vinto
   Since then, he has no longer always won

   *Da allora, non ha **sempre più** vinto

b. **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian**
   On *vise uvijek* ne pobjedjuje
   he no-longer always not wins

   *On **uvijek vise** ne pobjedjuje

c. **Mandarin Chinese**
   ta *bu-zai zongshi* gen da-ge zhengchao
   he no-longer always with brother quarrels

   *ta **zongshi bu-zai** gen da-ge zhengchao
Modifiers

always > completely

a. English
  He always completely ruins our plans
  *He completely always ruins our plans

b. Albanian
  Ai nuk i kupton gjithnjë tërësisht vërejtjet
  he not understands always completely the remark
  
  *Ai nuk i kupton tërësisht gjithnjë vërejtjet

c. Norwegian
  De forstår alltid helt hva jeg snakker om
  they understand always completely what I say

  *De forstår helt alltid hva jeg snakker om
The Cinque hierarchy

[frankly Mood sentence type]
[luckily Mood evaluative]
[allegedly Mood evidential]
[probably Mod epistemic]
[once T(Past)]
[then T(Future)]
[perhaps Mood irrealis]
[necessarily Mod necessity]
[possibly Mod possibility]
[usually Asp habitual]
[finally Asp delayed]
[tendentially Asp predispositional]
[again Asp repetitive(I)]
[often Asp frequentative(I)]
[willingly Mod volition]
[quickly Asp celerative(I)]
[already T(Anterior)]
[no longer Asp terminative]
[still Asp continuous]
[always Asp continuous]
[just Asp retrospective]
[soon Asp approximative]
[briefly Asp durative]
[Asp generic/progressive]
[almost Asp prospective]
[suddenly Asp inceptive]
[obligatorily Mod oblig.]
[in vain Asp frustrative]
[Asp conative]
[completely Asp SgCompletive(I)]
[tutto Asp Pl Completive]
[well Voice]
[early Asp celerative(II)]
[? Asp inceptive(II)]
[again Asp repetitive(II)]
[often Asp frequentative(II)]
Modifiers

quality (*beautiful*) >

size (*big*) >

shape (*triangular*) >

color (*green*) >

ethnic (*Brasilian*) >

syncategorematic

(*nuclear physicist, classical guitarist, head teacher, main cause*)
Modifiers

small green Chinese vase

[most likely] main cause of the accident

try other orders
Modifiers

xiao lü huaping
'small green vase'
(don't add *de*)

*try other orders*

(Sproat & Shih 1991)
Modifiers

*mirror image order*

la causa prima [più probabile] (della sua morte)...

*la causa [più probabile] prima (della sua morte) ... 

(but don't try this in your own home!)
Modifiers

*mirror image order*

la causa prima [più probabile] (della sua morte)...

*la causa [più probabile] prima (della sua morte) ...

Notice that the linear order of these adjectives in Italian is the opposite of English...
Modifiers

*mirror image order*

la causa prima [più probabile] (della sua morte)...

*la causa [più probabile] prima (della sua morte) ...

Notice that the linear order of these adjectives in Italian is the opposite of English...

... *but their structural position in the tree is identical.*
Modifiers
**New topic**

**Japanese word order review:**

For any head H:

a. H follows its complements.  
   [unlike English]

b. H' follows all its modifiers  
   [one option in English]

c. H' follows its specifier.  
   [like English]
Japanese word order review:

For any head H:
- a. H follows its complements. [unlike English]
- b. H' follows all its modifiers [one option in English]
- c. H' follows its specifier. [like English]

But this just yields the neutral, "unmarked" word order, which is not the only possibility...
Scrambling in Japanese

Scrambling in Japanese

a. Taroo-ga Hanako-ni piza-o age-ta.
   Taro-SUB Hanako-to pizza-OBJ gave

b. piza-o Taroo-ga Hanako-ni age-ta.

c. Taroo-ga piza-o Hanako-ni age-ta.

d. piza-o Hanako-ni Taroo-ga age-ta.

e. Hanako-ni piza-o Taroo-ga age-ta.

f. Hanako-ni Taroo-ga piza-o age-ta.
**Scrambling in Japanese**

**Hypothesis:**

The phrase structure of Japanese (and other languages) is determined by two factors:

a. the operation of Merge applying to lexical items and other structures formed by Merge laying around in a syntactic "workspace"; and

b. the structures determined by *moving* one or more constituents to a new position.
Scrambling in Japanese

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The phrase structure of Japanese (and other languages) is determined by two factors:

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The phrase structure of Japanese (and other languages) is determined by two factors:

a. the operation of Merge applying to lexical items and other structures formed by Merge laying around in a syntactic "workspace"; and

b. the structures determined by moving one or more constituents to a new position.

An argument for this proposal, from Kuroda (1980)...)
Scrambling in Japanese

(1) A Japanese numeral is normally adjacent to its noun...
   a. Gakusei-ga 2-ri piza-o katta.
      students-SUB 2-cl pizza-OBJ bought
      'Two students bought pizza.'

   b. *Gakusei-ga piza-o 2-ri katta.
      students-SUB pizza-OBJ 2-cl bought
      'Two students bought pizza.'
Scrambling in Japanese

(1) A Japanese numeral is normally adjacent to its noun...
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   b. *Gakusei-ga piza-o 2-ri katta.
      students-SUB pizza-OBJ 2-cl bought
      'Two students bought pizza.'

(2) ...except that in a sentence with scrambling, it may
    instead show up next to where the noun "should" be.
    Piza-o gakusei-ga 2-tu katta
    pizzas-OBJ student-SUB 2-cl bought
    'The student bought two pizzas.'
Scrambling in Japanese

(1) A Japanese numeral is normally adjacent to its noun...
   a. Gakusei-ga 2-ri piza-o katta.
      students-SUB 2-cl pizza-OBJ bought
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   Piza-o gakusei-ga 2-tu katta
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   'The student bought two pizzas.'

(3) The numeral can also "travel with" a scrambled noun.
   Piza-o 2-tu gakusei-ga katta
Scrambling in Japanese

(1) A Japanese numeral is normally adjacent to its noun...
   a. Gakusei-ga 2-ri piza-o katta.
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    pizzas-OBJ student-SUB 2-cl bought
    'The student bought two pizzas.'

(3) The numeral can also "travel with" a scrambled noun.
    Piza-o 2-tu gakusei-ga katta

(4) The numeral cannot occur in just any random position.
    *Gakusei-ga piza-o 2-ri katta.
Scrambling in Japanese

Analysis:

a. Basic phrase structures of Japanese are generated by Merge, as described in the classes up to now.

b. Scrambling optionally applies, moving either NP or N' leftward.
Scrambling in Japanese
Scrambling in Japanese

[Diagram of a tree structure with nodes labeled as follows:
- NP: two+CL, pizza
- IP: NP, student
- VP: eat
- I' PST]
Scrambling in Japanese

```
NP
  student
```

```
NP
  two+CL
```

```
VP
  eat
```

```
IP
```

```
PST
```

```
N
  pizza
```

```
NP
  IP
```

```
NP
```
Scrambling in Japanese
Scrambling in Japanese

(At this point, someone often asks me a particular clever and annoying question.)
Topicalization in English

(1) a. The lion will devour this pizza.

    b. *The lion will devour.

(2) a. John can depend on Mary.

    b. *John can depend on.

    c. *John can depend.
Topicalization in English

(1) a. The lion will devour this pizza.
   
   b. *The lion will devour.

(2) a. John can depend on Mary.

   b. *John can depend on.

   c. *John can depend.

BUT....
Topicalization in English

(1) a. The lion will devour this pizza.

   b. *The lion will devour.

   but: This pizza, the lion will devour.

(2) a. John can depend on Mary

   b. *John can depend on.

   but: Mary, John can depend on.

   c. *John can depend.

   but: On Mary, John can certainly depend!
Topicalization in English

(1) a. The lion will devour this pizza.

   b. *The lion will devour.

   but: This pizza, the lion will devour ____.

(2) a. John can depend on Mary

   b. *John can depend on.

   but: Mary, John can depend on ____.

   c. *John can depend.

   but: On Mary, John can certainly depend ____!
*wh*-movement in English

(1) a. The lion will devour this pizza.

   b. *The lion will devour.

   \textit{but:} \hspace{1cm} \text{I wonder} \hspace{1cm} \textit{which pizza} \hspace{1cm} \text{the lion will devour} \hspace{1cm} \text{____.}

(2) a. John can depend on Mary

   b. *John can depend on.

   \textit{but:} \hspace{1cm} \text{I wonder} \hspace{1cm} \textit{who} \hspace{1cm} \text{John can depend on} \hspace{1cm} \text{____.}

   c. *John can depend.

   \textit{but:} \hspace{1cm} \text{I wonder} \hspace{1cm} \textit{on whom} \hspace{1cm} \text{John can depend} \hspace{1cm} \text{____.}
Head movement (T-to-C) in English

I moves to C in a yes/no question

a. **Will** the lion ___ devour this pizza?
   
   \[ \uparrow \]

b. **Can** John ___ depend on Mary?
   
   \[ \uparrow \]

c. **Did** the children ___ go to school?
   
   \[ \uparrow \]
Head movement (T-to-C) in English

```
CP
   IP
      NP
        the lion
    I'
       VP
         V
            devour
         NP
            this pizza

will+C
```
I wonder [**will** the lion _____ devour the pizza].
Head movement (T-to-C) in English

All together now!

I-to-C and *wh*-movement in a matrix *wh*-question

*wh*-mvt

Which pizza will the lion ___ devour ___ ?

I-to-C *head mvt*
Head movement (T-to-C) in English

which pizza
will
the lion
devour
Movement

What is movement?

**Merge**

Form the phrase \{X, Y\}, designating one member as its head.

Ingredients:

X or Y may be lexical items.

X or Y may be sets previously formed by Merge.
Movement

What is movement?

Merge

Form the phrase \(\{X, Y\}\), designating one member as its head.

Ingredients:

X or Y may be lexical items.

X or Y may be sets previously formed by Merge.

Y may be a subconstituent of X. \((= movement)\)
Movement

What is movement?

Merge
Form the phrase \{X, Y\}, designating one member as its head.

Ingredients:

X or Y may be lexical items.

X or Y may be sets previously formed by Merge.

Y may be a subconstituent of X.
Movement

How phonology interprets movement.

The syntax sends an instruction to the phonology (in many cases) to not pronounce the phrase in its original position.

The original position of the phrase is also known as the trace of movement.
Movement

a. I wonder [[which pizza] the lion devoured which pizza].

b. I wonder [who Tom depended on whom].
Movement

Something semi-familiar:
In the *what-all* construction of West Ulster English (McCloskey 2000), the *all* may appear in the position where the *wh*-phrase would have been pronounced if *wh*-movement had not taken place.

(1) a. **What all** did you give __ to the kids?
   b. **What** did you give __ **all** to the kids?

(2) a. **Who all** did you send __ to the shops?
   b. **Who** did you send __ **all** to the shops?

(3) a. Tell me **what all** you got __ for Christmas.
   b. Tell me **what** you got __ **all** for Christmas.
Movement

It is important to make sure that the all is not simply free to occur anywhere.

It really does seem to stand next to the trace of the moved wh-phrase. It cannot occur in random places:

(1) *Who did he tell __ [that he was going to resign all].

(2) a. What did you do __ all after school the day?
    b. *What did you do __ after school the day all?
    c. *What did you do __ after school all the day.
Verb-movement in German

In a normal embedded clause, the main verb follows its complements and the auxiliary verb in I (if there is one) follows its complement VP...

V follows its complements in a normal embedded clause
...dass die Frau [gestern den Mann sah].
...that the woman-SUBJ yesterday the man-OBJ saw

...that the woman saw the man yesterday.'
Verb-movement in German

In a normal embedded clause, the verb follows its complements and I (an auxiliary verb) follows its complement VP...

V follows its complements in a normal embedded clause
...dass die Frau [gestern den Mann sah].
...that the woman-SUBJ yesterday the man-OBJ saw
'...that the woman saw the man yesterday.'

...but there is a more complex pattern in main clauses:

In a yes/no question, the verb comes first in the sentence, yielding a V-S-O pattern:

Sieht die Frau den Mann?
sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ
'Does the woman see the man?'
Verb-movement in German

Sieht die Frau den Mann?
sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ
'Does the woman see the man?'

Questions:

- Why isn't the verb next to the object for which it subcategorizes?
- Why isn't it next to the object whose semantic role (patient, theme, etc.) should also place it next to the verb?
Verb-movement in German

Sieht die Frau den Mann?
sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ
'Does the woman see the man?'

Questions:

• Why isn't the verb next to the object for which it subcategorizes?

• Why isn't it next to the object whose semantic role (patient, theme, etc.) should also place it next to the verb?

Answer:

• The verb was in fact merged exactly where it should be, as the head of VP, immediately following the direct object — exactly where it is merged in embedded declarative clauses.

• It ends up at the left edge of the sentence by movement.
**Verb-movement in German**

Sieht [die Frau den Mann _____]?  
sees the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ  
'Does the woman see the man?'

**Questions:**

- Why isn't the verb next to the object for which it subcategorizes?

- Why isn't it next to the object whose semantic role (patient, theme, etc.) should also place it next to the verb?

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Verb-movement in German

An argument for verb-movement from "separable prefixes"

- Some German verbs contain a prefix that is called "separable" in traditional descriptions of German. Often the prefix+root have an unpredictable, idiomatic reading, which suggests that they start as sisters.

- When a German verb with a separable prefix occupies the first position in a sentence, as it does in a yes/no question, guess where its prefix is found...
Verb-movement in German

An argument for verb-movement from "separable prefixes"

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- When a German verb with a separable prefix occupies the first position in a sentence, as it does in a yes/no question, guess where its prefix is found...
Verb-movement in German

a. ... dass der Mann das Licht an-macht.
   ... that the man-SUBJ the light-OBJ on-makes
   '(Mary thinks) that the woman is turning on the light.'

b. Macht die Frau das Licht an -?  
   'Is the woman turning on the light?'

a. ... dass die Frau den Brief auf-gibt.
   ... that the woman-SUBJ the letter-OBJ up-gives
   '...that the woman is mailing the letter.'

b. Gibt die Frau den Brief auf -?  
   'Is the woman mailing the letter?'
Verb-movement in German

When there is an auxiliary verb, it is the auxiliary verb that moves.

a. Müssen wir das Licht an-machen?
   must we the light on-make

b. Hat die Frau den Brief auf-gegeben
   has the woman-SUBJ the letter-OBJ up-given?
Verb-movement in German

Evidence that the verb or auxiliary moves specifically to C, when C is otherwise null

No movement in an *embedded* question, because it has an overt complementizer:

a. ... *ob* der Mann das Licht *an-macht*. ... whether the man-SUBJ the light-OBJ on-makes  
   '(... Mary asked) whether the woman is turning on the light.'

b. ... *ob* die Frau den Brief *auf-gegeben* *hat*  
   whether the woman-SUBJ the letter-OBJ up-given had  
   '(... Mary asked) whether the woman had mailed the letter.'
Verb-movement in German

Analysis:

• V moves to T
  if T is otherwise phonologically empty.

• Whatever is in T moves to C
  if C is otherwise phonologically empty.

Consequence:

• In the absence of an auxiliary verb, V moves to T, and...

• ...in the absence of an overt complementizer, V+T moves to C.
**Verb-movement in German**

V follows the topic in a declarative main clause

**a. Die Frau** sah ___ gestern [den Mann v].

the woman-SUBJ saw yesterday the-OBJ man

'The woman saw the man yesterday.'

**b. Den Man** sah die Frau [gestern ___ v].

the man-OBJ saw the woman-SUBJ yesterday

'The man the woman saw.'

**c. Gestern** sah die Frau [___ den Mann v].

yesterday saw the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ

'Yesterday the woman saw the man.'
Verb-movement in German

THIS IS CALLED...

VERB-SECOND (V/2)
Verb-movement in German

Analysis:

• A declarative main clause has a phonologically empty C.

• The rules that require "filling" an empty T and an empty C in yes/no questions also apply in declarative clauses.

• **Plus one more thing:** a phonologically empty C in a declarative clause must have a specifier. This means either the subject moves to Spec,CP or topicalization moves some other element into that position.
Verb-movement in German

Something familiar... again:

Recall the separable prefixes:

...dass die Frau [jetz das Licht an-macht].
...that the woman-SUBJ now the light-OBJ on-makes

'...that the woman is now turning on the light.'
Verb-movement in German

What happens to *anmacht* in a V/2 environment?

a. **Die Frau** macht ___ [jetzt das Licht an-__].
   the woman-SUBJ makes ___ now the light-OBJ on
   'The woman is now turning the light on.'

b. **Das Licht** macht die Frau [jetzt ___ an-__].
   the light-OBJ makes the woman-SUBJ now on
   'The light the woman is now turning on.'

c. **Jetzt** macht die Frau [___ das Licht an-__].
   now makes the woman-SUBJ the man-OBJ
   'Now the woman is turning on the light.'
Verb-movement in German

(1) **Das Licht** macht die Frau [jetzt **das Licht** an-macht].

  the light-OBJ makes the woman-SUBJ now on

'The light, the woman is now turning on.'
Once again, the main verb moves to C only when there is no auxiliary verb in T.

When there is an auxiliary verb in T, the auxiliary verb moves to C (and the main verb is left in VP).

'Den Man hat die Frau [gestern ____ gesehen] hat
the man-OBJ has the woman-SUBJ yesterday ____ seen

'The man, the woman saw.'
Verb-movement in German

More evidence that the verb or auxiliary moves specifically to C, when C is otherwise null

Also: though school textbooks may tell you that German has V2 in main clauses and V-final in subordinate clauses, the truth is more complex. Some embedded clauses show V2 order as well.

a. Hans sagte, er sei glücklich. [V2]
   Hans said he is happy

b. Hans sagte, dass er glücklich ist. [V-final]
   Hans said that he happy is

c. *Hans sagte, dass er sei glücklich.
   also *...er sei dass glücklich; *...er dass sei glücklich; etc.

d. *Hans sagte, er glücklich ist.
Verb-movement in German

- Embedded V2 is only found in the absence of an overt complementizer.
- Also, an overt complementizer is always present when embedded V2 is not found.
- V2 and dass are thus in complementary distribution.

a. Hans sagte, er sei glücklich. [V2]
   Hans said he is happy

b. Hans sagte, dass er glücklich ist. [V-final]
   Hans said that he happy is
Verb-movement in German

German V2 review

• *step 1*: 
  V moves and attaches to T, if T is "empty" (no auxiliary verb).

• *step 2*: 
  T moves to C, if C is "empty" (no complementizer).

And don't forget: German is a *mixed* language: 
  head-initial for T and C, but head-final for V.
Verb-second on four continents

**German**
(Germanic group of the Indo-European family of languages, Western Europe)

*Subordinate clause:*
verb is at the end

*Main clause:*
main verb follows the first phrase (or comes first), unless there's an auxiliary verb, in which case the auxiliary verb follows the first phrase and the main verb is at the end.
Verb-second on four continents

Karitiana
(Arikém family of languages, Rondonia state, Brazil)

Subordinate clause:
verb is at the end

Main clause:
main verb follows the first phrase (or comes first), unless there's an auxiliary verb, in which case the auxiliary verb follows the first phrase and the main verb is at the end.

[work of Luciana Storto]
**Verb-second on four continents**

**Vata**
(Kru family of languages; Ivory Coast, Africa)
main verb follows the first phrase (or comes first), unless there's an auxiliary verb, in which case the auxiliary verb follows the first phrase and the main verb is at the end.  

[work of Hilda Koopman]

(2)a. N le bI saká.
I eat now rice

b. n ká yO-O slé-e mlÍ saká nyÉ
I will child-the house-the in rice give

c. à la saká li
we have rice eat
'we have eaten rice'
Verb-second on four continents

Kashmiri
(Indo-Aryan group; Indian subcontinent)
verb follows the first phrase, unless there's an auxiliary verb, in which case the auxiliary verb follows the first phrase and the main verb is at the end. [work of Rakesh Bhatt]
Verb-second on four continents

Kashmiri

a. raman dits shamas kitab.
   ram+SUBJ gave sham-IO book

   'Ram gave the book to Sham.'

b. ram chu shamas kitab divan
   ram+SUBJ is sham-IO book giving

   'Ram is giving the book to Sham.'

c. varI-varI chu ram bat khevan.
   slowly is ram rice eating

   'Slowly Ram is eating rice.'
Verb-second on four continents

Some languages that don't exist:

a. Like German, but patterns of embedded and main clause are reversed.

b. Main verb must follow the second phrase, third phrase, etc.

c. Not the main verb, but the direct object must follow the first phrase.
Verb-second on four continents

The Big Picture

What we find:
Languages are not all the same, but the ways in which they differ are *highly restricted*. The same peculiar bits show up again and again, all over the world.

What's the same = *Universal Grammar* (UG)
What's different = settings of *parameters*
Movement

Why we care

- One reason we worried about scrambling in Japanese and verb-position in German is the fact that in boring clauses, subcategorization restrictions between V and the direct object appear to work in these languages just as in English.

  Those elements that are complements of V in English also act like complements of V in German and Japanese.

- We expect that core facts about language like the Chomsky's (revised) generalization about subcategorization will not differ randomly from language to language. So it was reassuring to see actual evidence that Japanese and German complements start out next to their verb, just like their English counterparts.
Syntax of the French verb

(1) \[ V \text{ Adv} \text{ DO} \]

a. Marie \textit{parle} \textit{souvent} français.
   Marie speaks often French
   ‘Marie often speaks French.’

b. *Marie \textit{souvent} parle français.
Syntax of the French verb

(1)  V Adv DO

a. Marie _parle_ _souvent_ français.
Marie _speaks_ _often_ _French_
‘Marie often speaks French.’

b. *Marie _souvent_ parle français.

(2)  V Neg DO

a. Marie _ne_ _parle_ _pas_ français.  (please ignore _ne_)
Marie _ne_ speaks _not_ _French_
‘Marie doesn’t speak French.’

b. *Marie _ne_ _pas_ parle français.
Syntax of the French verb

(1) V Adv DO
   a. Marie parle souvent français.  
      Marie speaks often French
      ‘Marie often speaks French.’
   b. *Marie souvent parle français.

(2) V Neg DO
   a. Marie ne parle pas français.  
      Marie *ne speaks not French
      ‘Marie doesn’t speak French.’
   b. *Marie ne pas parle français.

(3) *V Neg DO when the verb is infinitival
   a. ...PRO ne pas parler français...
      *ne not speak French       'to not speak French ...'
   b. *...PRO ne parler pas français ...
Syntax of the French verb

Hypothesis:

In French, V obligatorily moves to finite T.

Marie ne parle+T pas [VP ___ français].

Marie ne speaks not French

‘Marie doesn’t speak French.’
Syntax of the French verb

The final output of head movement looks like this (called *adjunction*)
Syntax of the French verb

In a sentence with an auxiliary verb, it is the auxiliary verb that sits in T, not the main verb of the sentence:

a. Marie n'a pas [VP parlé français]
   Marie has not spoken French

b. *Marie ne pas a parlé français.
   (just like German, without the extra step of T-to-C movement)
Syntax of the Irish verb

VSO in a sentence with no auxiliary verb
(all Irish examples, and the general approach to this topic, are due to Andrew Carnie, *Syntax: a Generative Introduction*)

a. Chonaic na gasraí capall.
   see.PST the boys horse
   'The boys saw a horse.'

b. Leanann an t-ainmní an briathar i nGaeilge.
   follow.PRES the subject the verb in Irish
   ‘The subject follows the verb in Irish.'

c. Scaoil an Captaen na féasair ag na Clingiónaí.
   fire.PST the captain the phasers at the Klingons
Syntax of the Irish verb

Aux SVO

a. Ba Caoimhín ag caoineadh.
   be.PST Kevin cry.PROG
   'Kevin was crying.'

b. Tá na Clingeánai ag scoileadh na féasar
   be.PRES the Klingons fire.PROG the phasers
   'The Klingons are firing the phasers.'

non-finite clauses

Níor mhaith liom [Caoimhín a theacht abhaile]
I-wouldn't like Kevin come-INFIN home
'I wouldn't like Kevin to come home.'
Syntax of the Irish verb

This **might remind you of French**, where the finite verb moves to T ...
or it **might remind you of German**, where the highest verb moves to C.

Which is it?
Syntax of the Irish verb

If Irish were like German (V-to-T-to-C), we could explain why the verb appears to the left of the subject...

...but we'd have a hard time explaining why the verb follows an overt complementizer:

Ceapaim [CP go bhfaca sé an madra ]
  think.PRES.1SING that see.PST.DEP he.NOM the dog
  ‘I think that he saw the dog.’

If Irish were like French (just V-to-C), we would explain why the verb follows the complementizer

...but we would have to account for why the verb *precedes* the subject. (If Irish were just like French, we would expect to see the French word order, rather than VSO and Aux-V-S-O.)
Syntax of the Irish verb
Syntax of the Irish verb

- V moves to T
- subject occupies specifier of V
Syntax of the Irish verb

```
T'
  /  \
T    VP
  /  \
V    T  NP
   /  \
chocaic saw
  /  \
Det  N  V  NP
   /  \
na gasrai capall
  /  the boys horse
```
### Syntax of the Irish verb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Eng.</th>
<th>Ir.</th>
<th>Fr.</th>
<th>Germ.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>V moves to T?</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specifier of VP moves to specifier of TP?</strong></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T moves to C in a declarative clause?</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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</table>
A specifier of VP in English?

Wait a minute! What makes us think that English *ever* has a subject as the daughter of VP (specifier of VP)?

Some verbs in English subcategorize for a VP, and allow the subject of this embedded VP to stay unmoved:

"Bare VP complements"

a. I saw [Mary break the window].
b. I made [Mary break the window].
A specifier of VP in English?

What makes us think that *Bill leave the room* is a VP and not an IP or CP? The obligatory absence of a complementizer and the obligatory absence of the I-word *to* may give us a hint:

a. *I saw Mary to leave.
b. *I saw for Mary (to) leave.

(though admittedly it is hard to exclude the possibility of a null I.)