

Typological Study of Word Order (19) :

Yuchi

Tasaku TSUNODA

0. Introduction,

This is the 19th installment of my typological study of word order, following Tsunoda (1988, 1989, 1990 a-d, 1991 a-c, 1992 a-d, 1993 a-c, 1994 a, b).

(Tsunoda 1988 deals with Japanese.)

I am most grateful to William L. Ballard for kindly and generously providing information and data on Yuchi and also for commenting on earlier drafts of the present work.

1. Name of language

Yuchi.

2. Sources of information

Questionnaire data provided by William L. Ballard, supplemented with Ballard (1978) (often abbreviated as 'Ballard' or 'B') and with additional examples and information provided by Ballard. Examples or information cited from the questionnaire data or provided through personal communication are indicated with 'Ballard, p. c.' or 'B, p. c.'. The information regarding 3 and 4 has been supplemented with Crawford (1979) and Haas (1979).

3. Genetic affiliation

Independent (Ballard, p. c.). Yuchi is a language isolate, and has not been proved to be related to any other language or language family (Crawford p. 327, Haas pp. 309-10).

4. Geographical distribution

Yuchi was once spoken in Georgia and presently is spoken by fewer than thirty people near Sapulpa in Oklahoma (Crawford p. 327, Haas p. 310, Ballard, p. c.).

5. Morphological and other relevant facts

Yuchi has pronominal prefixes as well as independent pronouns. Nouns, independent pronouns, etc. seem to have no case inflection, i. e. they have the neutral case system (St=Si=O). Pronominal prefixes seem to have the nominative-accusative system (St=Si≠O; NOM=NOM≠ACC). (Ballard (p. c.) notes, however, that a case could be made for a vestigial ergative system (St≠Si=O; ERG≠ABS=ABS).) The nominative case has five paradigms, while the accusative case has two paradigms, and the use of various series is rather complicated; see Ballard (1978). In addition to marking the subject, the nominative prefixes also 'occur as possessive prefixes on nouns', apparently with two exceptions (Ballard p. 106).

For typographical convenience, the notation system employed by Ballard will be slightly modified in what follows. That is, a lateral fricative will be written with *lh*; and voiceless and voiced palato-alveolar affricates with *ch* and *j*, respectively.

Abbreviations employed are the following: - ACC, accusative; ADV, adverb or adverb phrase; DEM, demonstrative; EXC, exclusive; FEM, feminine; IMPERA, imperative; NEG, negation; NOM, nominative; Obj, object; PL, plural, Q, question; SG, singular, Subj, subject; 1, first person; 2, second person; 3, third person.

6. Subject, object and verb

'Yuchi is generally an SOV language' (Ballard, pp. 104-05). The only order of transitive sentences is SOV. (Ballard (p. c.) notes, however, that sentences with both subject and object expressed by nouns are infrequent in his data.) An example of the SOV order:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| (1) dze-tʃæ̃ | wedin | ʔo-thwa. | |
| 1 SG, NOM-father | cow | 3 SG, NOM-kill | (SOV) |

(5) se-dze-lh2æ̃chhi.

3SG, NOM-1SG, ACC-chase 'She chases me'. (3rdSubj-1stObj-V)

7. Adposition

Yuchi possesses postpositions, e. g. (1), but appears to lack prepositions.

(1) yasʔa lhahe kʔōlha !

wood out of take, IMPERA (ADV V)

'Take it out of the wood!' (B, p. c.)

8. Genitive and noun

Probably no genitive form of nouns exists (Ballard, p. c.). However, possessors can be expressed by pronominal prefixes. Namely, generally 'All five subject prefix paradigms occur as possessive prefixes on nouns. . . ' (Ballard, p. 106). Examples include 'my sister' in (1) of 6; and, 'your sister' in (1) of 13.

Different nouns take their prefix from different subject paradigms. In certain instances, a given noun can take prefixes from two paradigms, showing a contrast between alienable and inalienable possession (Ballard, p. 109). Examples from Ballard (p. 109) :

(1) dze-hi

1SG, NOM-sinews

'my sinews (in my body)'

(2) dzo-hi

1SG, NOM-sinews

'my sinews (in my bag, that I bought at a store)'

9. Demonstrative and noun

A demonstrative follows the noun it qualifies (Ballard, p. c.) :

(1) yuh fa

house DEM 'this/that house' (B, p. c.)

(Ballard (p. c.) suggests that the expression in (1) is probably a compound.)

Examples of adverb phrases include 'out of the wood' in (1) of 7.

17. Adverb and adjective

An adverb precedes the 'adjective' (which is really a verb) it qualifies (Ballard, p. c.) :

(1) John peʔæ̃ hogæ̃.

John very 3SG, NOM-be tall 'John is very tall'. (B, p. c.)

18. General questions

Yuchi has the question marker *-ʔle*. It is attached to the focus of question. In unmarked cases, it is attached to the verb. (Ballard, p. c.)

(1) tse-bale-ʔle ?

rain-stopped-Q 'Did the rain stop?' (B, p. c.)

(2) John golhæne ho-lhæ-ʔle ?

John meal 3SG, NOM-eat-Q (SOV)

'Did John eat the food?' (B, p. c.)

Ballard (p. c.) notes that *-ʔle* may be considered as an enclitic rather than a suffix (i) in the sense that, when it is attached to a verb, it is always at the end, following all suffixes and (ii) in that it can be attached to any element in the sentence.

Apart from the addition of the question marker, general questions do not seem to differ in word order from declarative sentences.

19. Inversion of subject and verb in general questions

This inversion does not occur (Ballard, p. c.).

20. Special questions

No information is available except that an interrogative pronoun will occur sentence-initially if it is the subject (Ballard, p. c.). Examples of special questions include :

(1) wafa ʔð-fe-yi ?

where IPL, EXC, NOM-go-?

'Where are we going?' (B, p. c.)

(The gloss for *-yi* is not known.)

21. Inversion of subject and verb in special questions

No information is available.

22. Negative sentences

It seems that verbs are negated by the negative prefix *næ-* and that negative sentences do not differ in word order from affirmative sentences.

(1) John Bill *næ-we-thwa-jê*.

John Bill NEG-3SG, NOM-kill-PAST (SOV)
'John did not kill Bill'. (B, p. c.)

(2) *næ-dze-nã*.

NEG-1 SG, NOM-be 'I'm not here'. (B, p. 109)

Yuchi has a negative verb *gwãʔã* 'not be' (Ballard, p. 109). It is affixed—rather redundantly—with the negative prefix :

(3) *næ-dze-gwãʔã*.

NEG-1 SG, NOM-not be 'I'm not here'. (B, p. 109)

23. Conditional clause and main clause

No information is available.

24. Purpose clause and main clause

No information is available.

References

- Abbreviations employed are the following: - JFLNU, Journal of the Faculty of Letters, Nagoya University; SLLL, Studies in Language and Literature, Language (published by the Institute of Literature and Linguistics, the University of Tsukuba) ; and, UNP, University of Nagoya Press.
- Ballard, William L. 1978. More on Yuchi pronouns. *International Journal of American Linguistics*, Vol. 44, No. 2: 103-12.
- Campbell, Lyle and Marianne Mithun. (Eds.) 1979. *The languages of native America: historical and comparative assessment*. Austin and London: University of Texas Press.

- Crawford, James W. 1979. Timuca and Yuchi. two language isolates of the Southeast. In Campbell and Mithun (eds.) 1979: 327-54
- Haas, Mary R. 1979 Southeastern languages. In Campbell and Mithun (eds) 1979: 299-326.
- Tsunoda, Tasaku. 1988. Typological study of word order in languages of the Pacific region (1). *Kantaiheiyou mondai kenkyuu*, 23-37. UNP.
- . 1989. Typological (2): Djaru (Australia). *JFLNU*, No. 103: 19-47
- . 1990 a. Typological ... (3): Thai. *Kanteiheiyou ni okeru bunkataki-shakaiteki kouzou ni kansuru kenkyuu-1990 nen*, 53-70. UNP.
- . 1990 b. Typological ... (4): Areal survey of East and Southeast Asia. *Proceedings of International Forum for Studies on the Pacific Rim Region*, 115-26 UNP.
- . 1990 c. Typological ... (5): Warrungu *JFLNU*, No 106: 13-47.
- . 1990 d Typological ... (6): Korean. *SLLL* 18: 1-13.
- . 1991 a. Typological study of word order (7): Chinese. *SLLL* 19: 15-29.
- . 1991 b Typological ... (8): Rumanian. *SLLL* 20: 1-25.
- . 1991 c. Typological ... (9): Spanish *SLLL* 20: 25-42.
- . 1992 a. Typological ... (10): Swedish. *SLLL* 21: 121-45.
- . 1992 b. Typological ... (11): Q'eqchi' *SLLL* 21: 145-56.
- . 1992 c. Typological ... (12): Kalkatungu. *SLLL* 22: 71-97.
- . 1992 d. Typological ... (13): Diyari. *SLLL* 22: 97-119.
- . 1993 a. Typological ... (14): Gooniyandi. *SLLL* 23: 53-72.
- . 1993 b. Typological ... (15): Warlpiri. *SLLL* 24: 1-23.
- . 1993 c. Typological ... (16): Alyawarra. *SLLL* 24: 23-43.
- . 1994 a. Typological ... (17): French. *SLLL* 25: 1-44.
- . 1994 b. Typological ... (18). Bengali. *SLLL* 25: 45-65.