More on word order
Verb second (V2)

In a German main clause, some phrase is at the front, and the verb is second:

Die Frau sah gestern den Mann
the woman saw yesterday the man
'The woman saw the man yesterday'

Den Mann sah die Frau gestern
the man saw the woman yesterday
'The man, the woman saw yesterday'

Gestern sah die Frau den Mann
yesterday saw the woman the man
'Yesterday, the woman saw the man'
Verb second (V2)

Sometimes ‘the verb’ is an auxiliary:

Die Frau **hat** gestern den Mann gesehen
The woman **has** yesterday the man **seen**
'The woman saw the man yesterday'

Den Mann **hat** die Frau gestern gesehen
The man **has** the woman yesterday **seen**
'The man, the woman saw yesterday'

Gestern **hat** die Frau den Mann gesehen
Yesterday **has** the woman the man **seen**
'Yesterday, the woman saw the man'
Verb second (V2)

\[ \text{Can} \quad \text{à-cé} \quad \text{Bòl} \quad \gammà̀c \quad \text{álèth} \quad \text{róck}. \quad (\text{Dinka}) \]

Can 3SG-PRF Bol buy clothes town.LOC
‘Can bought Bol clothes at the town’

\[ \text{Álèth} \quad \text{áa-cíi} \quad \text{Cân} \quad \text{ke} \quad \gammà̀c \quad \text{Bòl} \quad \text{róck}. \]

clothes 3PL-PRF.NS Can.GEN PL buy Bol town.LOC
‘Can bought Bol clothes at the town’

\[ \text{Rók} \quad \text{à-cíi} \quad \text{Cân} \quad \text{álèth} \quad \gammà̀c \quad \text{Bòl}. \]

town 3SG-PRF.NS Can.GEN clothes buy Bol
‘Can bought Bol clothes at the town’
The Noun Phrase

*Elephants* are big

*Those elephants* are big

*Those grey elephants* are big

*Those grey elephants in the corner* are big

*Those grey elephants in the corner that the little boy is pointing at* are big
Demonstratives, Numbers, Adjectives

those three red books
Demonstratives, Numbers, Adjectives

those three red books  books those three red
three those red books  books three those red
three red those books  books three red those
those red three books   books those red three
red those three books   books red those three
red three those books   books red three those
## Demonstratives, Numbers, Adjectives

<table>
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<th>Three red those books</th>
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<th>Red three those books</th>
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→ 14 of the logically possible 24 orders attested
Demonstratives, Numbers, Adjectives

most common orders:

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Demonstratives

English *this, that, these, those*
Demonstratives

English *this, that, these, those*

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<th>Lardil</th>
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<td>kono</td>
<td>ito</td>
<td>diin ‘this’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sono</td>
<td>iyan</td>
<td>kiin ‘that, near you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ano</td>
<td>iyon</td>
<td>ngani ‘that, far from both of us’</td>
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Demonstratives

English *this, that, these, those*

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**Tibetan**

di   ‘this’
phagi ‘that’
yagi ‘that, uphill from here’
magi ‘that, downhill from here’
Determiners (Articles)

English *a, the*
Determiners (Articles)

English *a, the*

A man walked in. The room was dark. *(A/the)* man sat down.
Determiners (Articles)

English *a, the*

A man walked in. The room was dark. 
(A/the) man sat down.

Samoan *le* ‘specific’, *se* ‘non-specific’

(compare “Yesterday, this guy walks into the department…”

16
Adjectives (ordering)

*a beautiful little purple Japanese car*
Concord

Ngada kubari diin-i kiyan-i mutha-n wangalk-i
I made this-ACC two-ACC big-ACC boomerang-ACC
‘I made these two big boomerangs’ (Lardil)

nov-yj žurnal nov-aja kniga nov-oe pis’mo
new-MASC magazine new-FEM book new-NEUT letter
‘a new magazine’ ‘a new book’ ‘a new letter’
(Russian)
Possessors

My book
Mary’s book
Possessors

n-ikuwoss ‘my mother’
k-ikuwoss ‘your mother’

n-pihtenskos ‘I am tall’
k-pihtenskos ‘you are tall’  (Passamaquoddy)

Péter-nek a kalap-ja
Peter-DAT DET hat-3SG
‘Peter’s hat’

a Péter kalap-ja
DET Peter hat-3SG
‘Peter’s hat’  (Hungarian)
Relative clauses

*The little boy is pointing at.

[The elephant *that the little boy is pointing at*] is huge.

This is a *head-external* relative clause: the modified noun is outside the clause that modifies it.
Relative clauses

*The little boy is pointing at.

[The elephant that the little boy is pointing at] is huge.

This is a head-external relative clause: the modified noun is outside the clause that modifies it.

Here’s a head-internal relative clause:

Junya-wa [Ayaka-ga ringo-o muita no-o] taberu
Junya-TOP Ayaka-NOM apple-ACC peeled one-ACC eat
‘Junya will eat the apples that Ayaka peeled’ (Japanese)
Relative clauses

Here’s a *head-internal* relative clause:

Junya-wa [Ayaka-ga *ringo-o muita no-o*] taberu
Junya-TOP Ayaka-NOM apple-ACC peeled one-ACC eat
‘Junya will eat the *apples* that Ayaka peeled’ (Japanese)

Japanese relative clauses can also be *head-external*:

Junya-wa [Ayaka-ga *muita ringo-o*] taberu
Junya-TOP Ayaka-NOM peeled apple-ACC eat
leaving out N

the big *(ones)

ang mga malalaki
the PL PL.big
‘the big ones’ (Tagalog)
24.917 ConLangs: How to Construct a Language Fall 2018

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