

- **The configurationality debate:  
 $X'$  syntax as a universal?**

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*Background preparation:*

- *last week's syntax discussion*

# 0. Today's plan

Topics for today's discussion:

- Scrambling in Japanese and the “configurationality” debate
- Implications for syntax in UG
- Time permitting: Other interesting questions concerning syntax and Japanese

# 1. Flexible word order

- Data set - Word order variation
  - Which of the six word orders shown in this data set is compatible with our basic approach to Japanese syntax using the X' model?
  - How would an X' approach explain the remaining word order options?
    - See the English sentences at the bottom for a clue

## 2. How universal is X' syntax?

- Handout - Word order: Configurationality and "scrambling"

Key points to take from this discussion:

- What are two key distinctions between a **configurational** vs. a **nonconfigurational** approach to sentence structure?
- What evidence can we find to show which approach is better supported?

### 3. Other interesting topics in Japanese syntax

- Adjective syntax: Where does an AP go in the tree?  
[<sub>IP</sub> Ano sakana-ga oisi-i. ]  
[<sub>NP</sub> ano oisi-i sakana ]
- Suffixes vs. postpositions — One kind of evidence
  - Optional handout