

## Word-order variation

The following sentences all have approximately the same meaning. That is, technically speaking, their *truth conditions* are the same, but they emphasize different aspects of that meaning.

(Data adapted from Nemoto 1999)

- |   |                              |                              |                              |                              |                           |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1)                                     | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |
| 'Taroo bought (a) book at (the) store.' |                              |                              |                              |                              |                           |
| (2)                                     | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |
| (3)                                     | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |
| (4)                                     | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |
| (5)                                     | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |
| (6)                                     | o-mise<br><i>HON-store</i>   | de<br><i>at</i>              | hon-o<br><i>book-ACC</i>     | Taroo-ga<br><i>Taroo-NOM</i> | kat-ta<br><i>buy-PAST</i> |

- Which *one* of these Japanese sentences is compatible with our X-bar model?  
→ How can we explain the others?

A clue to the solution may come from considering the following English sentences:

- (7) Pat has devoured the burrito.
- (8) \* Pat has devoured. (*ungrammatical*)
- (9) What has Pat devoured?

- Is there anything that sentence (9) might have in common with the Japanese examples above? (Linguistics majors should be able to come up with a proposal. If this is your first exposure to syntax, give it some thought and see what you can think of.)