

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

Background preparation:

- *O'Grady et al. (2010)*

0. Final projects

- Feedback on project **proposals** will be finished and released by tomorrow (Fri) at the latest
- Use your feedback to finalize **methodology plan**
- Official deadline **Tu Apr 20, 9pm**
 - Alternative deadline (no penalty) **Th Apr 22, 9pm**
 - Feedback will be returned in order received
- Want to talk before submitting plan?
 - My regular OH are Tu 2–3
 - I am available for meetings F and M

0. Pokémononastics guest lecture

- Guest lecture: **“What can we learn about linguistic knowledge from Pokémon names?”**

Prof. Shigeto Kawahara, Keio

- Any questions, comments, or follow-up 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?
[_{IP} Ano sakana-ga oisi-i.]
[_{NP} ano oisi-i sakana]
- SSS in syntax
 - Optional handout
- “Double-ga” sentences: Is there a direct object?
 - Optional handout
- Suffixes vs. postpositions — One kind of evidence
 - Optional handout