

# Similar to English,

- Subject Verb Object

(1) a. John loves Mary.

b. 約翰 愛 瑪麗。

John love Mary

However, no 'word boundary' in writing.

c. 約翰愛瑪麗。

It is also possible to write from top to down:

d. 約  
翰  
愛  
瑪  
麗  
。

# Same Rules!

• PP → P NP  
(2) at home

在 家  
zai jia  
at home

• AP → Adv Adj  
(3) very tall

很 高  
hen gao  
very tall

• VP → V.clausal S

(4) think [John loves Mary]

想 [約翰 愛 瑪麗]

xiang Yuehan ai Mali

think John love Mary

• VP → V.give NP NP

(5) give John a book

給 約翰 一本書

give Yuehan yi.ben.shu

give John a book



- VP → V.trans NP

(6) love Mary

愛 瑪麗

ai Mali

love Mary

- VP → V.state Adj

(7) feel tired

覺得 累

juede lei

feel tired



• VP → V.put NP PP

(8) put a book on the table

放 一本書 在 桌上

fang yi.ben.shu zai zhuo.shang

put one.CL.book on table.top

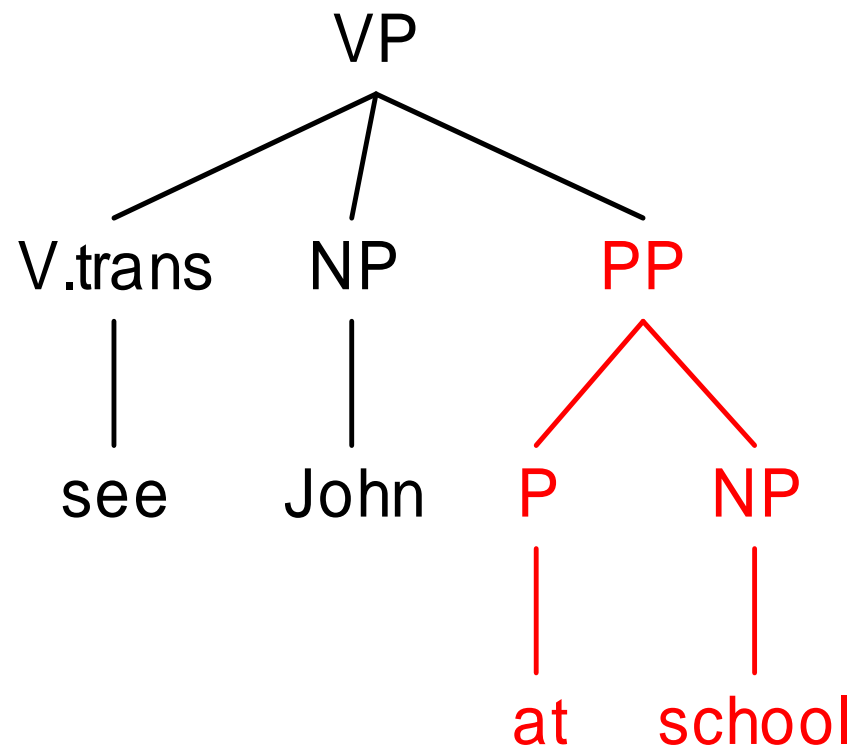
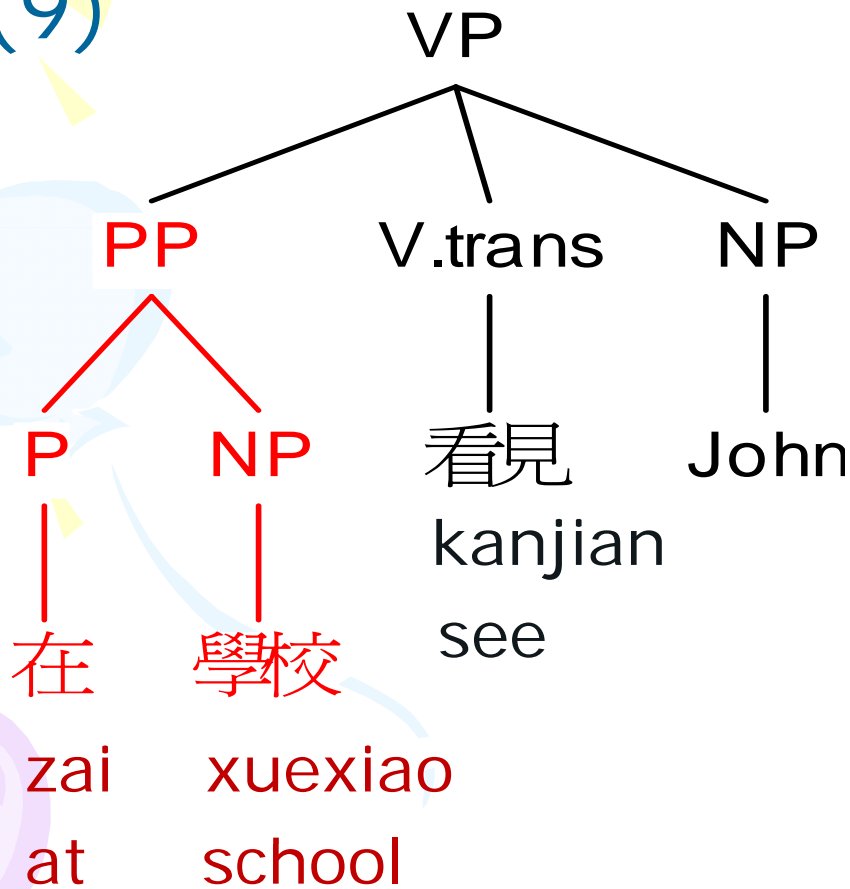
→ VPs are **head-initial**



BUT, they are not exactly the same.

- VP → V.trans NP (PP)

(9)



# Passive sentences

(10) The cat **is seen** \_\_\_\_ .

那 隻 貓 被 看見 \_\_\_\_ 了。

na zhi mao **bei** kanjian le

that CL cat **BEI** see ASP

Passive marker, *bei-* (被)

# Passive sentences

(11)

The cat is seen by John.

o. 那隻貓被 John 看見了。

na zhi mao bei John kanjian le

that CL cat BEI John see ASP

# Some conjunction pairs

(12) because / so

因為 ..., 所以...。

**yinwei** **suoyi**

**because** **so**

(13) although / but

雖然 ..., 但是 ...。

**suiran** **danshi**

**although** **but**

• NP → (DT) (Adj) N

(14) that book

那 本 書  
that CL book

Number agreement is not necessary

(15) a beautiful girl

一個 漂亮的 女孩

one.CL beautiful girl

(16) those big trees

那些 (棵) 大 樹  
that.PL CL big tree

• NP → (DT number classifier) (Adj) N

(14) that book

那 本 書  
that CL book

Agreement  
between  
classifier  
and N

(15) a beautiful girl

一 個 漂亮的 女孩  
one CL beautiful girl

(16) those big trees

那些 (棵) 大 樹  
that.PL CL big tree

# Here are the differences:

- **No Case marking** in Chinese

Subject

(17) Ni/Wo/Ta shi xuesheng ◦  
You/I/(S)He be student

Object

Ta ai ni/wo/ta  
(S)He love you/I/(s)he.

# Here are the differences:

- **No subject-verb agreement**

(18)a. I love him.

b. Wo ai ta ◦

(19)a. She loves you.

b. Ta ai ni ◦

- **No tense marking on verbs in Chinese**

# Here are the differences:

- **No tense marking**, but **aspectual affixes**

(20) a. He loved Mary.

b. 他愛.過瑪麗。 (experience)

he love.exp Mary

c. He died.

d. 他死了。 (change of state)

he die.change

e. He is reading.

f. 他在讀書。 (progressive)

he prog.read

# Topics

- Derived Topic

(21) a. That movie, I like ec a lot

b. 那部 電影, 我 很 喜歡 ec 。

that.CL movie I very like

- Base-generated Topic

(22) 那場火, 幸虧 消防隊 來得 早。

that.CL.fire, luckily firefighters come early

'That fire, fortunately, firefighters came in time.'

# Questions

- *Yes-no* questions

(23)

John **is** here.

→ **Is** John here?

約翰 在 這兒。

→ 約翰 在 這兒 **嗎**？

Yuehan zai zher

Yuehan zai zher **ma**

John at here

John at here **Q**

# Questions

- Wh-questions

John **loves** **Mary**.

約翰 愛 瑪麗 。

Yuehan **ai** Mali

John **love** Mary

**Who does** John love?

約翰 愛 誰 ？

Yuehan **ai** **shei**

John **love** **who**

# Modal auxiliaries

(25)

He **should** come. He **can** come.

他 應該 來。 他 可以 來。

ta yinggai lai ta **keyi** lai

He **should** be able to come.

他 應該 可以 來。

he **should** **can** come



# Relative clauses

(26) men who left

離開.的 人

likai.de ren

leave.DE man

→ English NP is head-initial (**left**-headed)

→ Chinese NP is head-final (**right**-headed)