

Nonsyntactic ordering effects in noun incorporation

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Abstract

Despite the importance of ordering phenomena in typology and the visibility of Baker's analysis (1988, 1996) of noun incorporation in generative syntax, his prediction (1996: 25–30) that in syntactic incorporation the incorporated noun will always precede the verb root has yet to be tested typologically. Here we fill this gap and survey the known cases of object noun incorporation. The predicted order proves to be strongly preferred crosslinguistically and warrants recognition as a strong statistical universal. However, it is strongest in unproductive and fossilized contexts, the opposite of what is expected if the position of the incorporated noun is determined solely by principles of syntactic movement. The universal must therefore be nonsyntactic, perhaps morphological, in nature and appears to involve a preferred position for heads and/or for noun and verb roots within words. The same principle also shapes other noun-verb combinations in addition to noun incorporation.

Keywords: compound, morpheme order, noun incorporation, syntax, word order

1. Introduction

Despite the importance of ordering of elements in typology (Greenberg 1963 and much subsequent work, e.g., Dryer 1992, 1997, including in morphology, e.g., Bybee et al. 1990, Enrique-Arias 2002, Bauer 2001) and the perennial interest of noun incorporation to morphosyntactic theory (e.g., Mithun 1984; Sadock 1980, 1986; Baker 1988; Rosen 1989), the relative positions of the object and the verb in object noun incorporation have not been surveyed crosslinguistically. This is the more striking in view of the visibility of Baker's analysis (1988, 1996) of noun incorporation in generative syntactic theory. Following work by Kayne (1994), Baker (1996: 29) proposes that noun incorporation is

the result of head movement of the noun into the verb and is restricted by a universal constraint that permits only left head adjunction, and that “[i]f X and Y are X0 categories and X is adjoined to Y in the syntax, then X precedes Y in linear order”. Therefore the incorporated noun will universally precede the verb root, regardless of the basic word order in the language.

Not all elements of Baker’s proposal have proven equally robust. Lexicalist and other nonsyntactic analyses of incorporation continue to have currency in the literature (e.g., Rosen 1989, Spencer 1995, Gerdtz 1998, van Geenhoven 1998, Malouf 1999, Runner & Aranovich 2003). Lieber’s non-lexicalist approach (1992: 26–75) derives properties of compound words, such as headedness and the ordering of head and nonhead, in the same way as properties of phrases and sentences; this would imply that incorporated nouns should be on the same side of the verb as unincorporated direct objects are. Incorporated nouns are not always preverbal; Baker (1996: 32) cites (1) from Sora (Munda, Austroasiatic; India), and Baker et al. (2005) explicitly retract Baker’s earlier claim of categorically universal preverbal position for the incorporated noun on the evidence of Mapudungun (Araucanian; Chile), e.g., (2).

- (1) *jom-bəŋ-t-ε-n-ji* *pə?*
 eat-buffalo-NONPAST-3.S-INTR-3PL.S Q
 ‘Will they eat the buffalo?’ or ‘Do they eat buffalo?’ (Baker 1996: 32)
- (2) *ñi chao kintu-waka-le-y*
 my father seek-cow-PROG-IND.3SG.S
 ‘My father is looking for the cows.’ (Baker et al. 2005: 139)

Baker is the only one to have made observations about the position of the incorporated noun, and we test that observation here. Following usual typological practice, we will accept a statistically significant crosslinguistic preference as a universal whether or not it is categorical. We conducted a worldwide survey to seek answers to the following questions:

- (i) Is the incorporated noun usually placed before the verb root regardless of the language’s basic order of verb and object? If so, is the frequency of this ordering sufficient to warrant regarding it as a universal preference?
- (ii) Is there any correlation between the type of noun incorporation (as defined below) and the position of the incorporated noun? In particular, is there support for Baker’s claim that specifically syntactic incorporation (defined in Section 2.3 below) produces preverbal incorporated nouns?

We will argue that preverbal incorporation is a robust, though not exceptionless, crosslinguistic tendency and we therefore retain Baker’s observation as a (statistical) universal. It is, however, most strongly in evidence in unproductive incorporation, i.e., in the context where syntactic considerations should be least relevant to morpheme order.

2. Definitions

2.1. Noun incorporation

For consistency in doing a large survey of grammars that treat noun incorporation in varying degrees of detail and with various theoretical assumptions, we consider a noun to be incorporated if it forms a single morphological unit with the verb stem or root. That is, a noun was counted as incorporated if it occurred between parts of the inflected verbal complex. (3) is a classic example of incorporation from Mohawk (Iroquoian; U.S. and Canada) in which the incorporated noun *wir* 'baby' appears between an agreement prefix and the verb stem *nuhwe* 'like'.

- (3) *ra-wir-a-nuhwe*'-s
 he-baby-EP-like-HAB
 'He likes babies.' (Baker 1997: 279, personal communication)

To satisfy our definition for incorporation, verbal inflectional morphemes do not have to be affixal. (4) is an example from Yeli Dnye (isolate; Melanesia), where the verbal inflectional morphemes cluster together in a preverbal element that is phonologically discrete and written as a separate word, yet is not a syntactic word. In Yeli Dnye, the incorporated noun is positioned between the preverb and the verb stem, as shown in (4), a valid instance of incorporation by our definition.¹

- (4) a. *d:a* *pêêd*
 PL.IM.PST.1SG.S.CLS pull.PCT
 'I pulled it (a shark) in.' (Henderson 1995: 16)
 b. *nnee-n:aa* *yi.pââ paapaa*
 CI.REM.1PL.S-MOT tree.log pulling
 'We were pulling logs.' (Henderson 1995: 27)

Another pattern involving non-affixal inflectional morphology that satisfies our criteria for noun incorporation comes from Car Nicobarese (Austroasiatic; Nicobar Islands), exemplified in (5). The morpheme *an* doubles the independent subject and is therefore an agreement marker. Though it is phonologically word-like and written as a separate word in the grammar, the object noun is

1. Contrast (4b) with German examples such as *Hans hat einen Brief geschrieben* 'Hans wrote a letter' (lit. 'Hans has a letter written'). Here the auxiliary verb *hat* 'has' is a syntactic word (rather than an isolating inflectional formative), so German is not counted as having incorporation.

inserted between the verb and the agreement marker and is therefore a valid incorporated noun.²

- (5) *tí'ŋjén tətmək an, cé'ms*
 sent.away Tətmək he James
 'James sent Tətmək away.' (Braine 1970: 179)

This position is apparently obligatory for objects;³ that is, noun incorporation in Car Nicobarese is obligatory. The situation is similar for Saweru (see Appendix A) and Önge (not in our sample; unclassified language of the Andaman Islands; Mark Donohue, personal communication). These examples are not called incorporation in the respective grammars and could possibly also be analyzed as cliticization of the subject marker to the object. That is, they do not necessarily require analysis as incorporation, but they certainly bear such an analysis, and our criteria classify them as obligatory noun incorporation.

A less clearcut example of incorporation comes from Polynesian languages, represented by Samoan in our sample. (6a) illustrates what has regularly been called incorporation in the Polynesianist literature (e.g., Chung 1978: 183–189, Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992) and also by Mithun (1984: 850): the object is nonspecific, verb and object are prosodically unverbated, and the subject is absolutive, showing that the verb is intransitive; contrast unincorporated (6b) with definite article on the object and ergative case on the subject. (6c, d) show the same options with a pronoun subject; here the word order differs, with verb and unincorporated object separated by the pronoun subject in (6d).

- (6) a. *e tausi pepe le teine*
 TNS care baby ART girl
 'The girl is a babysitter.' (Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 255)
- b. *e tausi pepe e le teine*
 TNS care baby ERG ART girl
 'The girl takes care of the babies.' (Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 255)
- c. *e tausi-pepe 'oia*
 TNS care-baby he
 'He takes care of babies.' (Chung 1978: 183)

2. The comma in (5) is not a punctuation mark but transcribes a boundary type. It should not be taken to suggest (as the English punctuation comma would) that the last word is a duplication, afterthought, or the like.

3. More precisely, for one word of the object NP; Braine (1970: 248) indicates that either the object noun or its modifying adjective can be incorporated, and the other remains unincorporated. Examples with more than one modifier are unfortunately not given.

- d. *e tausi e ia pepe*
 TNS care ERG he baby
 'He takes care of the babies.' (Chung 1978: 183)⁴

Examples like (6a) and (6c) might better be classified as 'stripping' (Miner 1986) or 'quasi-incorporation' (Dahl 2004: 216–219) or 'pseudo-incorporation' (Massam 2001): the object is nonspecific, immediately adjacent to the verb, and often shorn of some inflection. They might also be taken as an ergative variety of 'differential object marking' (Aissen 2003, Bossong 1985), in which objects lower on a scale of specificity, animacy, and/or similar factors are likely to lack overt object marking and/or form a prosodic constituent with the verb. In at least some Polynesian languages, particles that are normally directly postverbal follow the entire verb+noun incorporating sequence, e.g., Samoan (Chung 1978: 184):

- (7) a. *po 'o āfea e tausi ai e ia tama?*
 Q PRED when TNS care PRO ERG he child
 'When does he take care of children?'
 b. *po 'o āfea e tausi-tama ai 'oia?*
 Q PRED when TNS care-child PRO he
 'When does he babysit?'

The clitic particle, roman in (7a, b), is a pronominal anaphor used when an oblique nominal is missing from its usual position due to questioning, relativization, or the like (Chung 1978: 21, Chapin 1974). With *tama* 'child' flanked by the tensed verb and this clitic, (7b) fits (at least barely) our definition of incorporation.

We were prepared to accept a noun at the edge of the inflected verb as incorporated if it displayed clear word-internal sandhi, but found no such cases. In Nuuchahnulth, word order and absence of a dummy incorporated noun make it clear that a noun at the left edge of the verb is incorporated (see Appendix A).

This definition makes it possible to capture all possible examples of incorporation without mixing in phenomena such as stripping and differential object marking. To survey a crosslinguistically rare phenomenon like incorporation, capturing all possible examples but no extraneous ones is essential. The statistical impact of including or excluding Samoan, Car Nicobarese, and Saweru is small; it is tracked in notes to Tables 2 through 4 below.

In some languages the incorporated noun differs in form from its unincorporated counterpart. In Yana (isolate; California), nouns with monosyllabic stems

4. Chung writes the hyphen in (6c); Mosel & Hovdhaugen do not use a hyphen, but mention (1992: 392) that verb and incorporated object are often written as one word by Samoans.

have a final *-na*, which is not present on the incorporated form; if the incorporated noun stem ends in a short vowel other than *i*, *-i* is added; and initial *b* or *d* of an incorporated noun often undergoes lenition to appear as *w* or *r* (Sapir 1911: 268). Thus the incorporated form of *bana* ‘deer’ is *wai*; that of *xana* ‘water’ is *xai*; and that of *auna* ‘fire’ is *au*. Many nouns in Nahuatl, as in many other Uto-Aztecan languages, in their citation forms have what is called an absolutive suffix, which appears whenever the noun does not have some other suffix; these absolutive suffixes do not appear on incorporated nouns. Differences between independent and incorporated forms of nouns can be greater and less automatic, however. In languages of the Salishan and Wakashan families (represented by Halkomelem, Nuuchahnulth, and Kwak’wala in our sample), the relationship between the two can be one of allomorphy or outright suppletion. For instance, Halkomelem has the lexical suffix *’a:ləs* corresponding to the independent noun *qəl:əm* ‘eye’ (Galloway 1993: 203, 518; see Gerds 2003). The incorporated forms are usually called “lexical affixes” in descriptions of these languages, but Gerds (2003) shows that they are morphosyntactic arguments and not distinct from incorporation, and we classify them as incorporation. This means that suppletion of the noun stem on incorporation is no obstacle to our classification of the construction as incorporation if it meets the other criteria.⁵

2.2. Types of incorporation

For convenience in classifying incorporation patterns into syntactic vs. non-syntactic, we sometimes refer to the widely used four types of incorporation identified by Mithun (1984) and shown in Table 1 and illustrated just below.

2.2.1. *Type I.* In Nisg̃ha (Tsimshianic; western Canada), the incorporated noun is referentially nonspecific and the verb describes an institutionalized activity, as shown in (8).

- (8) *qùł-hó:n* *n’ì’y*
 gut.something-fish me
 ‘I gutted fish.’ (Tarpent 1987: 792)

2.2.2. *Type II.* In Tupinambá (Tupí-Guaraní; Brazil), incorporation of a noun allows another NP to become the direct object. In (9), ‘face’ is incorporated; the direct object is signaled by pronominal agreement on the verb.

5. In Nunggubuyu (Gunwinyguan; Australia; Heath 1984: 463–468), upon incorporation and similar compounding many nouns supplete or display phonological and/or semantic irregularities while many others do not, further supporting our contention that suppletive and non-suppletive incorporated nouns are the same kind of entity.

Table 1. Mithun's (1984) four types of noun incorporation

Type	Characteristic properties
I "Lexical compounding"	Incorporated noun is generic, nonreferential; N+V is conventional, institutionalized activity
II "Manipulation of case"	IN loses argument status; another NP takes on the grammatical function it vacates
III "Manipulation of discourse"	NI used productively for discourse, e.g., to background known information
IV "Classificatory NI"	IN can be supplemented by more specific NP material external to the complex verb

NI = noun incorporation, IN = incorporated noun.

- (9) *a-s-oβá-éy*
 I-him-face-wash
 'I face-washed him.' (Mithun 1984: 857)

2.2.3. *Type III.* In Nahuatl (Uto-Aztecan; Mexico), a direct object is incorporated once it becomes old information. In (10a) the noun *kočillo* 'knife' is introduced, but not incorporated. In (10b), it is old information, so it is incorporated.

- (10) a. *kanke eltok kočillo? na' ni'-neki amanci*
 where is knife I I-it-want now
 'Where is the knife? I want it now.' (Mithun 1984: 861)
 b. *ya' ki-kočillo-tete'ki panci*
 he (he)it-knife-cut bread
 'He cut the bread with it (the knife).' (Mithun 1984: 861)

2.2.4. *Type IV.* In Mohawk, an incorporated noun is generic and serves to restrict the meaning of the verb while an external NP provides the specific object reference, as in (11).

- (11) *tohka niyohserá:ke tsi nahe' sha'té:ku nikú:ti*
 several so.it.year.numbers so it.goes eight of.them
rabahbót wahu-tsy-ahní:nu ki rake'níha
 bullhead he-fish-bought this my.father
 'Several years ago, my father bought eight bullheads.' (Mithun 1984: 870)

2.2.5. *Compounding vs. classificatory incorporation.* Rosen (1989) distinguishes compounding vs. classificatory noun incorporation (see also Gerdtz

1998, Runner & Aranovich 2003). In compounding incorporation the verb becomes intransitive (as though the incorporated noun were not in the argument structure), and the incorporated noun cannot have external modifiers; in classificatory incorporation the verb remains transitive and the incorporated noun can have external modifiers and the like (an example is (11) above; also Caddo in Appendix A). Classificatory incorporation generally falls into Mithun's Types II–IV (IV is always classificatory), and is generally syntactic in Baker's terms. It is almost always productive as defined below (Catalan is exceptional). Appendix B shows the compounding vs. classificatory type where identified in the literature and, where possible, additional cases identified by us.

2.3. *Syntactic incorporation*

Noun incorporation has been variously analyzed in the literature as a morphological process and as a syntactic process. In morphological approaches (e.g., Mithun 1984), noun incorporation is viewed as the result of presyntactic or lexical compounding of a noun and a verbal stem. Productive and transparent though noun incorporation often is, under this view it is nonetheless a word formation process contributing to a finite lexicon.

Later work within this perspective proposes that noun incorporation is a process that operates at the level of argument structure (Rosen 1989, Spencer 1995). Spencer's analysis of Chukchi (Chukchi-Kamchatkan; Russia) argues that Chukchi noun incorporation is a morphological N+V verb compound that is SEMANTICALLY equivalent to a transitive construction, where the verb's argument structure is morphologically saturated: noun incorporation is a morphological operation over argument structures.

Syntactic approaches, in contrast, posit a syntactic operation that is responsible for moving a noun into the verb of which it is an argument to form a single word. Sadock's (1980, 1986) defense of the syntactic nature of noun incorporation depends on evidence that the incorporated noun interacts with the external syntax of the sentence in ways that require the noun to be represented at some level as independent of the incorporating verb. These include external modification or possession of the incorporated noun and the ability of the incorporated noun to serve as a discourse referent. In West Greenlandic (Eskimoan; Greenland), for example, an incorporated noun introduces a discourse referent that can later be picked out, in this language by person/number suffixes on the verb. The incorporated noun of (12a) introduces 'airplane' as a discourse referent that the 3SG and 4SG suffixes in (12b) refer to.

- (12) a. *Suulut timmisartuliorpoq*
 Søren.ABS airplane.make.IND.3SG
 'Søren made an airplane.' (Sadock 1980: 311)

- b. *suluusaqarpoq aquuteqarllunilu*
 wing.have.IND.3SG rudder.have.INF.4SG.and
 'It has wings and a rudder.' (Sadock 1980: 311)

Similar phenomena are found in a variety of other languages including Mohawk (Mithun 1984: 869). The fact that the incorporated noun is able to serve as the antecedent for a discourse anaphor is strong evidence, in a syntactic approach, that noun incorporation is derived syntactically. If it were derived lexically, then the incorporated noun would form a single lexical unit with the verb and thus would not be available to serve as a discourse referent (the word being an anaphoric island).

Baker (1988, 1996, Baker et al. 2005) takes some kinds of incorporation to be morphological or purely lexical and some kinds to be syntactic. Of Mithun's four types of incorporation (above), Baker et al. (2005) consider types III and IV, and possibly II, as syntactic. Appendix B shows the classifications of Mithun, Baker, and Rosen, and also our classifications in the same terms made when possible. It is not always possible to tell from grammars whether incorporation is syntactic or not, since examples showing the incorporated noun as discourse anaphoric referent, with external modifiers, etc. are not always given even where the language can form them, and their non-occurrence is even less often noted. All the languages left unclassified in Appendix B show at least some diagnostic effects that are compatible with a syntactic origin of their incorporation and with a syntactic object function for the incorporated noun. These include restriction of incorporation to particular argument roles including object, transparent compositional semantics,⁶ and availability of a non-incorporating paraphrase.

Without taking a stand on the overall nature of noun incorporation, we assume it to be uncontroversial that there are some aspects that are the result of derivation in the syntax – defined atheoretically as that component of the grammar that is responsible for deriving relations between words in a sentence. The question then is whether the observed tendency for the ordering of verb and incorporated noun can be attributed to the principles of the syntax.

2.4. *Productive incorporation*

We consider a pattern of incorporation to be productive if it can involve any member of a nonclosed set of nouns. There are languages that can incorporate only and all body part terms, e.g., Totonaco (Totonac-Tepehua; Mexico) shown in (13), and languages that can incorporate all body part terms and some or many others, e.g., Halkomelem (Salishan; Canada), shown in (14). Since body

6. Transparent semantics seems to us to be a necessary condition for syntactic incorporation, though it is not a sufficient condition as it could also be compatible with a derivational origin.

part terms are a large and probably open class of nouns, we count these patterns as productive.

- (13) *k-laqa-cakaa*
 1.s-face-wash
 ‘I wash my face.’ (Teresa McFarland, fieldnotes)
- (14) a. *lək^w-xén*
 get.broken-leg
 ‘break a leg’ (Suttles 2004: 307)
- b. *t^θq^w-élwəs-t*
 punch-side-TRANS
 ‘punch him on the side’ (Suttles 2004: 307)

Whether the verbs that allow incorporation are a closed set or not is immaterial to our definition of incorporation. Thus if a language has a closed set of incorporating verbs but an open set of incorporating nouns we consider the incorporation to be productive. An example is given in (15) from Tümpisa Shoshone (Uto-Aztecan; U.S.), in which the possible incorporating verb stems are limited to just five but these allow any noun to incorporate into them.

- (15) *nümmü so’oppüh putisih punkupaimmippühantü*
 we.EX many burro pet.have.HAB.PST
 ‘We used to have many burro pets.’ (Dayley 1989: 91)

Another language with a closed set of verbs taking incorporation is Warembori (Lower Mamberano; Papua New Guinea), where in one type of incorporation “certain verbs that require the presence of a noun in order to be accomplished may incorporate that noun” (Donohue 1999b: 45). Also in Warembori, the subject of the existential verbs ‘exist’ and ‘not exist’ must be incorporated.

The verb involved in productive noun incorporation must be a real verb. Note that, while for Tümpisa Shoshone the verbs involved in noun incorporation are members of a closed class, they are not simply verbalizing suffixes. They can be used independently and combine with the incorporated noun in a semantically transparent manner.

We have defined productivity solely in terms of the nonclosed class status of the incorporated noun, excluding the status of the verb, because of the fundamental asymmetry in the relationship of the constituents of a clause: the verb is the head and so can determine the properties of (subcategorize for) its complement noun. Thus, it is not unexpected that some verbs might be able to select for a nominal object that will incorporate into them, just as some others might select for a generic object, or an inanimate object.

All cases of syntactic incorporation identified by Mithun or Baker et al. are productive, as are all of the cases that we have identified as types II–IV, with the

single exception of Catalan, a puzzling case which belongs to Type II in view of its case-changing impact on the clause (see Appendix A) but is not productive by our definition (though it has enjoyed some diachronic productivity as a compounding type: see Klingebiel 1989: 202–224).

3. Methods and results

We searched for languages with noun incorporation, using as leads secondary sources, our own knowledge of languages, the Autotyp database (Bickel & Nichols 2002ff.), and additional surveying of grammars. Where sister languages have incorporation we chose one language per stock or (for older stocks) primary branch (this level is comparable to or slightly older than the *genus* of Dryer 1989, 2005b).⁷ We found 45 languages (representing different families or major subfamilies) with some type of incorporation pattern. Four of the languages have two different kinds of incorporation (one productive or syntactic and one not), for a total of 49 different incorporation patterns, 39 of them productive. The figures and tables below usually count patterns, not languages.⁸

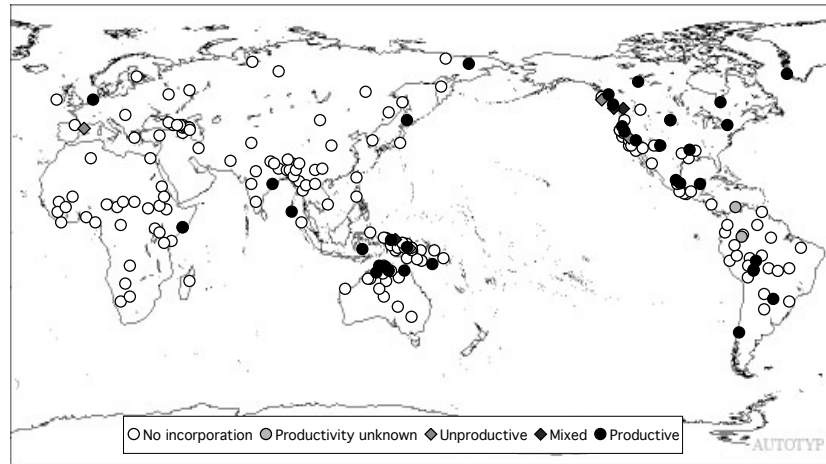
Map 1 shows the distribution of the languages with object incorporation among the 200 languages of the Autotyp genealogical sample that have been surveyed for incorporation. As the map shows, incorporation (and especially productive incorporation) is overwhelmingly a Circum-Pacific phenomenon (as that area is defined by Bickel & Nichols 2006: it comprises the Americas, Oceania-New Guinea-Australia, and eastern Asia back to the major coast mountain range). The only instances outside the area are Catalan, Frisian, and Somali.

3.1. *The incorporated noun is generally preverbal*

Regardless of type, incorporation exhibits a general tendency for preverbal position of the incorporated noun; see Table 2.

7. There are five cases in our sample of languages from different branches of stocks: Kwak'wala and Nuuchahnulth, both Wakashan; Bininj Gun-Wok and Ngandi, both Gunwinyguan; Samoan and Tukang Besi, both Austronesian; Sora and Car Nicobarese, both Austroasiatic; and Blackfoot and Cree, both Algonquian.

8. We are aware of four additional families that have or may have noun incorporation, all in South America: Cahuapanan (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 449), Chocoan (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 59), Chonan (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 563), and Esmaraldeño (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 159; extinct, unclassified language). Dixon & Aikhenvald (1999) also mention some additional languages from Amazonia, for all of which the incorporated noun is preverbal, but we cannot determine any other properties of noun incorporation. For none of these languages do we have enough information to include them in the survey. As will become clear below, information on productivity of incorporation for any of these would be extremely valuable.



Map 1. Languages with noun incorporation (N = 219)

Table 2. Position of incorporated noun

N+V	V+N	Total
36 (73 %)	13 (27 %)	49 ^a

Note

a. If Murrinh-patha and Marrithiyel are classified as V+IN, 35 (70 %) and 15 (30 %). If Saweru, Car Nicobarese, and Samoan are excluded: N+V 37 (79 %), V+IN 10 (21 %). With both of these adjustments, 35 (74 %) and 12 (26 %).

3.2. *The incorporated noun in unproductive noun incorporation is nearly always preverbal*

In our sample productive incorporation is postverbal in just over one third of the cases but unproductive incorporation never is, as shown in Table 3. The difference between productive and unproductive incorporation is categorical in our sample, but only barely statistically significant because of the small sample size, chiefly the small number of languages with unproductive incorporation.

3.3. *Position of the incorporated noun correlates with word order in productive noun incorporation*

For productive incorporation, the position of the incorporated noun is sensitive to the language’s word order, as shown in Table 4. The incorporated noun tends to be on the same side of the verb as an unincorporated object and the

Table 3. *Position of incorporated noun in productive and unproductive noun incorporation*

	N+V	V+N	Total	
Productive	26	13	39	
Unproductive	8	0	8	
Unknown	2	0	2	
Total	36	13	49	$p < 0.05$ (χ^2), < 0.06 (Fisher) ^a

Note

- a. $p < 0.04$ on both tests if the probably unproductive Damana and Retuarā are added. Significance is improved slightly if Marrithiyel and Murrinh-patha are reclassified as V+N (see Appendix A); it is reduced slightly if Saweru, Car Nicobarese, and Samoan are excluded. The validity of the chi square test is dubious because of the small sample size (the zero cell contributes disproportionately to the significance), so significance levels reported below are based only on Fisher's Exact Test unless otherwise stated.

Table 4. *Productive incorporation and word order. n.d. = no data (on word order)*

	N+V	V+N	Total	
OV	15	2	17	
VO	9	10	19	
Free	1	0	1	
n.d.	2	0	2	
Total	27 (69 %)	12 (31 %)	39	$p < 0.02$ (OV/VO), $p < 0.03$ (OV/other) ^a

Note

- a. χ^2 (valid) $p = 0.024$. Same or better significance if Samoan, Saweru, and Car Nicobarese et al. are excluded and/or if Murrinh-Patha is reclassified as V+N (calculated for OV/other only).

difference in frequency of postposed incorporated nouns is highly significant. A stronger tendency, though, is the preference for preverbal position, which overrides basic word order in about half of the VO languages.

If syntactic derivational history were responsible for the ordering of the incorporated noun and verb, productive incorporation should be no less, and probably more, consistently preverbal than unproductive incorporation, and should be less influenced by the language's basic word order. Though the number of languages in our sample with unproductive noun incorporation is too few to reach statistical significance or allow firm conclusions, it appears that, on the contrary, unproductive incorporation is more often preverbal, as shown in Table 5. The difference in the frequency of V+N incorporation in VO languages

Table 5. *Unproductive incorporation and word order*

	N+V	V+N	Total	
OV	3	0	3	
VO	4	0	4	
Free/none	1	0	1	
Total	8	0	8	n.s. ($p = 1.00$) ^a

Note

a. Also non-significant if Marrithiyel unproductive NI is reclassified as V+N.

is telling: V+N is in a slight majority for productive incorporation (Table 4) but absent for unproductive incorporation (Table 5).⁹

3.4. *Dryer's test*

The continent-by-continent test of Dryer 1989 is a simple and reliable way of testing for significance of a distribution or correlation based on whether it holds in every continent, and how strongly. Unfortunately, the incidence of noun incorporation is so low overall and especially in Eurasia and Africa that getting appreciable representation of all six of Dryer's continent-like areas, and meaningful margins within each, is nearly impossible. Still, by lumping low-incidence continents together one can see whether preferences obtain worldwide. Appendix E shows several patterns and correlations across four large areas: Africa and Eurasia; the Pacific (Australia, New Guinea, Oceania); North America (including Mexico and all of the Mesoamerican cultural and linguistic area); and South America (including Panama). Productive noun incorporation is more frequent than unproductive in all four areas. Preverbal incorporated nouns are more common than postverbal ones in all four areas. The correlation of productivity and incorporated noun order obtains in all four areas, unsurprisingly as the incidence of unproductive noun incorporation and V+N incorporation is zero everywhere as shown above. The correlation with word order obtains in that three out of four areas have good representation of both N+V and V+N order for VO languages and all four have zero or near-zero frequency of OV with V+N order. All of this is further evidence that the preferences we have identified are universal.

9. The difference for just these four datapoints (IN+V/V+IN for VO in Tables 4 and 5) is nearly significant ($p = 0.081$) despite the tiny sample size.

4. Discussion

Two previous works have found a correlation between incorporated noun order and clause word order: Mardirussian 1975 and Kozinsky 1981. Both find two-way implicational correlations with the order of subject and verb (Universals 358–359 and 1492–1493 in Plank et al. no date):

- (16) Mardirussian: Verb-initial implies V+N, non-verb-initial implies N+V
 Kozinsky: N+V implies S(...)V, V+N implies V(...)S¹⁰

Both used smaller and/or less consistently genealogical samples than ours (i.e., had fewer genealogically independent datapoints). Mardirussian defines incorporation more broadly than we do so that it includes some of what we consider N+V compound verbs (Section 4.2) and/or differential object marking. Perhaps these differences explain why both sources find two-way correlations while ours can be stated as a one-way correlation:

- (17) V+N order in incorporation implies VO clause order

(The result is similar if we use the order of subject and verb, as Mardirussian and Kozinsky did. It is clearer for object and verb, if only because we have a few more data gaps for SV/VS order than for OV/VO order.)

It is not a categorical universal that the incorporated noun always precedes the verb; Table 2 above shows that over one quarter of our sample languages have V+N order. As a noncategorical generalization, however, it is quite strong, and we propose that it should be recognized as a typological universal:

- (18) BAKER'S UNIVERSAL:
 In noun incorporation, the incorporated noun tends to precede the verb.

The fact that it is most evident in unproductive incorporation (Table 5) cannot be explained by syntactic derivation, whose effects should be clearest in productive incorporation. Where the syntax establishes a relationship between the verb and the incorporated noun, it can be expected that the linear order of these two elements is determined by the same processes or rules that give linear order to other syntactic constituents, in particular the verb phrase. The position of the incorporated noun should then always parallel the position of unincorporated object noun phrases (this would also follow from Lieber 1992: 26–75). Furthermore, incorporation might result diachronically from univerbation of an adjacent noun and verb, and such cases would have the language's

10. Kozinsky 1981 is cited from Plank et al. n.d.; the original was not available to us.

regular word order. As shown in Section 3, however, ordering in incorporation and in clause syntax are not always identical; there is a clear preference for preverbal incorporated nouns, regardless of word order, especially in unproductive incorporation. That is, in fossilized or more nearly fossilized contexts, ordering is not determined by the syntax and must be determined by something else. We believe it is a constraint or preference, perhaps morphological, whereby languages tend to place the noun before the verb, or the nonhead before the head, in certain kinds of word structures. To test this we have done crosslinguistic surveys of three other kinds of noun-verb combinations that are common enough to be easily surveyable.

4.1. Synthetic compound nouns

Synthetic compound nouns (for this term and its history see Bauer 2001) are compound nouns containing a noun root and a verb root, where the noun is the semantic object of the verb. Examples are English *skyscraper*, *witch hunt*, and *scarecrow* or Spanish *matamoscas* ‘flyswatter’ (lit. ‘kill-flies’) and *lavaplatos* ‘dishwasher’ (lit. ‘wash-plates’). There seem to be three ways in which such compounds can be constructed: noun-noun compound consisting of noun plus nominalized verb; nominalization of an entire noun+verb compound stem; and zero-derivation or conversion of a noun+verb sequence. The three types are illustrated in (19)–(21) (NZ = nominalizing morphology).

- (19) N + V-NZ
 Ingush (Nakh-Daghestanian; Caucasus)
chq'earii + du'-arjg
 fish-PL + eat-NZ
 ‘heron, stork’ (Johanna Nichols, fieldnotes)
 (likewise English *skyscraper*, etc.)
- (20) [N + V]-NZ
 Nisgha (Tsimshianic; British Columbia, Canada)
ha-[yò'oks + 'wém-tkw]
 INSTR-wash.s. + teeth-MEDIAL
 ‘toothbrush’ (Tarpent 1987: 795)
- (21) [N + V]_N
 Abkhaz (West Caucasian; Georgia)
a-c'la + r-k'°žk'°
 ART-tree + [CAUS-split]
 ‘woodpecker’ (Chirikba 2003: 27)
 (likewise English *scarecrow*, etc.)

Assignment to one or another subtype is not particularly important for our purposes; the point is that all three illustrate the single phenomenon of syn-

Table 6. Ordering in synthetic compound nouns

	N+V	V+N	Total	
OV	26	0	26	
VO	8	15	23	
Free/none	3	0	3	
Total	37	15	52	$p < 0.0000003$ (OV vs. VO), $p < 0.000003$ (OV vs. other)

Note

- a. While native Japanese compounds have N+V order, corresponding to OV word order, e.g., *hito-gorosi* [person-killing] 'manslaughter', Sino-Japanese compounds use V+N order, e.g., *satu-zin* [kill-person] 'manslaughter' (Shibatani 1990: 240–241). Since both elements of these compounds, and often the compound itself, come from Mandarin Chinese, we do not include this V+N pattern in our counts.

thetic compound noun containing a noun root and a verb root. We sought examples of such compounds, surveying a genealogically and geographically distributed sample of 52 languages (some of them taken from the similar surveys of H. Anderson 1997 and Bauer 2001). Anderson found, and we also found, that OV languages have almost exclusively N+V order in such compounds, while VO languages have either V+N (following the basic clause word order) or N+V. Bauer found that the ordering in these compounds responds more to morphological than to syntactic tendencies, in many languages following the order in other compounds rather than the clause word order, and in fact his morphologically-driven departures from syntactic word order are all cases of VO languages with N+V compounds. Our findings are given in Appendix C and summarized in Table 6. There is a highly significant correlation between word order and compound-internal order, but there is also a very strong preference for preverbal position regardless of word order.

4.2. Nonsyntactic incorporation and compound verbs

The same situation occurs with clearly nonsyntactic object incorporation (Mithun's Type I) and similar lexical compounds (these differ from the synthetic compound nouns only in that they are verbs); see Table 7. The sample languages are shown in Appendix B, plus Choctaw and Itelmen from Mithun 1984 and Kutenai (isolate; Matthew Dryer, personal communication) from our additional survey.

4.3. Instrumental affixes

Instrumental affixes are derivational elements that indicate the instrument or means used to accomplish the action of the verb. Most commonly they indicate

Table 7. *Ordering in nonsyntactic incorporation and compound verbs*

	N+V	V+N	Total	
OV	9	0	9	
VO	3	3	6	
Free/none	1	0	1	
Total	13	3	16	$p < 0.044$ (OV vs. VO), $p < 0.036$ (VO vs. other)

“action with the hands [, ...] with the feet [, ...] with the mouth [, ...] with the buttocks or body weight [, ...] natural forces [, ...] and actions with certain kinds of instruments, especially long ones, compact ones, and sharp ones” (Mithun 1999: 126). They are found in many language families and isolates of North America, including Siouan-Catawba, Uto-Aztecan (Numic branch), Yuman, Chumash, Pomoan, Palaihnihan, Chimariko, Shasta, Maidu, Wappo, Washo, Klamath, Takelma, Sahaptian, Haida, and Algonquian (cited by Mithun 1999: 118–126). They are also found in Kutenai (isolate; Canada and U.S.), the Lule-Vilela family of Argentina (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 387), Chayahuita (Cahuapanan; Peru) (Adelaar & Muysken 2004: 448), and Oceanic (Austronesian) languages of New Caledonia (e.g., Tinrin; Osumi 1995: 120–123). We surveyed all these languages, which were mentioned in secondary sources, and also sought instrumental affixes in a larger worldwide sample (which yielded no more examples). We looked for (i) a more or less dedicated affix or compound-element slot with (ii) a number of fillers having body part meanings and (iii) primarily instrumental meaning for those elements.¹¹ In every language found, with the exception of the Algonquian family and Kutenai, instrumental affixes are prefixes. Figures are shown in Table 8; see also Appendix D.

Although “the origins of most instrumental affixes are no longer recoverable” (Mithun 1999: 123), for some families reconstruction has traced them to noun roots (M. Nichols 1974 for Numic, Leer 1977: 95 for Haida), and the fact that many of them indicate body parts makes them inherently noun-like in their semantics. To the extent that they originate from nouns or pattern synchroni-

11. A few languages have an occasional body-part meaning in an affix slot containing other elements, or an occasional instrumental meaning in a body-part element. Ngiyambaa (Pama-Nyungan; Australia), for instance, has a set of bound verbs used in compounds, two of which are glossed with body part terms but neither of which is instrumental in actual functions (Donaldson 1980: 202–203); Tawala (Oceanic, Austronesian; New Guinea) has a compound slot dedicated to body part terms which are not instrumental (Ezard 1978: 222–226) and a prefix slot with five elements one of which is glossed ‘hand’ or ‘persistent action’ (Ezard 1978: 175, 178–179) and is instrumental when glossed ‘hand’. Neither of these languages meets our three survey conditions.

Table 8. *Instrumental affix position and word order. Count is by families where all daughters surveyed have the same word order; where they differ, each pattern is counted separately. (See also Appendix D.)*

Word order	Ins+V	V+Ins
OV	10	0
VO	6	1
Free	3	1
Total	19	2

cally with nouns, their position relative to the verb illustrates our generalization.

5. Conclusions

We have shown that incorporated nouns generally precede the verb root regardless of the language's clause word order, that this tendency is strongest in unproductive noun incorporation, and that it is even stronger in synthetic compounds and instrumental affixes. That is, productive incorporation is somewhat likely to be structured by language's syntax (and indeed usually has non-incorporation, i.e., free syntactic construction, as a readily available paraphrase), while unproductive incorporation is more likely to follow the crosslinguistic preference we have found, and purely lexical compounding even more so.

Small sample size has made it difficult to reach high statistical significance in our counts. It is unlikely that the sample can be expanded appreciably, as our survey has probably found all known cases of noun incorporation at least at the genus level and has furthermore defined incorporation rather generously. There are two ways in which the findings might be made firmer. One is to expand the survey to include more sisters of our sample languages and apply a randomization test like that of Bickel et al. 2006. Another would be to increase the information available on languages known to have noun incorporation, particularly information on productivity of incorporation and/or position of the incorporated noun in the additional languages from South America mentioned in Footnote 8.

We have described the crosslinguistic preference as positioning noun and verb roots, but it could be that the relevant factor is not part of speech but head vs. nonhead, with heads favored to follow nonheads (Williams 1981 formulated this preference as the Righthand Head Rule, offered chiefly for English). Possible support for this is the fact that for three cases of verb+noun compounds where we have information on centrality the verb+noun type is exocentric, i.e.,

the verb is not the head: the Slavic compounds mentioned just below, the English minority type of *scarecrow*, *breakwater*, etc. (Jespersen 1948: 262–263; Marchand 1969: 15–16, 380–381; Kastovsky 2006: 169), and the highly productive Romance type of Spanish *matamoscas* ‘flyswatter’. These compounds differ from the noun+verb ones that conform to our universal not in the parts of speech of their components but in their centrality.

Little is known about how the asymmetry between productive and unproductive incorporation arises. We know of no cases where incorporated nouns have moved from postverbal to preverbal position. There is a telling case in Halkomelem (Salishan, British Columbia), where incorporation is almost entirely postverbal but there are a few preverbal incorporates (recall that the Salishanist terminology is “lexical suffix”, “lexical prefix”). One preverbal incorporate may have originated when an indelicate postverbal incorporated noun was deleted, whereupon a local prefix was reinterpreted as the incorporated noun (Galloway 1993: 200–201 for the Upriver variety, Suttles 2004: 282 for the downriver Musqueam variety). That is, no incorporated noun moved; rather, when the semantics demanded an incorporated noun but the form did not provide one, a prefix was reanalyzed as the incorporate, going against the syntactic order of the language and producing a preverbal incorporate.

Also revealing is the case of Frisian, which has developed productive non-syntactic incorporation by back-formation from synthetic compounds (analogous to the English verb *cherry-pick* from *cherry-picking*). Dijk (1997) argues that this was made possible by the appropriate nonfinite morphology (analogous to English *-ing*) and OV word order, and indicates that incorporation arises naturally in Germanic varieties that meet these two conditions. Here it is not that compounding is frozen former syntax, but that preverbal incorporation arises by reanalysis of compounding.

Another telling case involving compounds comes from Russian and other Slavic languages (Kiparsky 1975: 345–350, Progovac 2008). These languages have unproductive verb+noun exocentric compounds (Russian *sorvi+golova* [tear.off+head] ‘madcap, daredevil’, *Vladi+vostok* [rule+east], Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian *kljuj+drvo* [peck+wood] ‘woodpecker’) which descend from Indo-European antecedents, as well as productive noun+verb endocentric compounds (e.g., Russian *jazyk-o+znanie* [language-LINK+knowledge] ‘linguistics’, *posud-o+moj-ka* [dishes-LINK+wash-SUFFIX] ‘dishwasher’) ultimately based on models calqued from Greek in the Middle Ages. No nominal element moved to produce the second type, but rather a borrowed model was taken up and has become productive though its ordering goes against the syntactic word order, which is VO.

A fourth case comes from Ngan’gitjemerri (Western Daly; Australia; a very close sister to our survey language Murrinh-patha), for which Reid (2003) presents evidence of diachronic change. Early twentieth-century Ngan’gitje-

merri used rather freely ordered combinations of light verb and heavy non-verbal piece, and by the late twentieth century these had solidified into complex verb stems with a preposed conjugating auxiliary and a postposed lexical root. Object noun incorporation is absent in early texts. As the former light verb was reanalyzed as the conjugation and the language became polysynthetic, the light verb came to be preposed to the heavy piece and the former object of the light verb was reanalyzed as prefixed to the heavy piece, now the lexical verb root (Reid 2003: 110–112). Again, there was no movement of the incorporated noun to achieve the desired order, but rather reanalysis of a noun as incorporated once it occurred in the right position.

Finally, in Catalan, the N+V order of incorporation does not derive directly from early Latin or Indo-European word order and is not the result of univertation, but arose in the written language as an extension of existing word-formation patterns in the late middle ages (Klingebiel 1989).

It has long been natural to explain the internal ordering in compounds and complex verb forms as univertated syntax freezing the word order at the time of univertation.¹² Specifically concerning compounds, Lehmann (1969, later summary 1975) argued that Germanic N+V synthetic compounds are an archaism reflecting OV order in early Indo-European. In fact, though, in none of the cases reviewed above, the only ones for which we are aware of diachronic evidence, is the ordering in incorporation due to simple frozen syntax. In Halkomelem and Slavic, conformities result from selection of morphological models; in Frisian and Catalan there was no univertation but adaptation and expansion of existing morphological patterns; in Ngan'gitjemerri there was univertation but the ordering of elements in incorporation results from reanalysis and does not straightforwardly reflect the earlier clause word order.

Thus, unless all examples known to us happen to be atypical, the ordering of elements in unproductive incorporation is not a simple reflex of univertation. Nor could univertation per se account for a strong crosslinguistic preference for one order over another (unless there is a strong preference to change from OV to VO but not the reverse, so that the lack of OV languages with V+N compounding is due not to principles of compounding but to an absence of OV languages that were formerly VO). Similarly, synchronic consistency between clause word order and morpheme order in verbs is known to obtain crosslinguistically (e.g., Siewierska & Bakker 1996) but cannot account for the asymmetry we have found.

If the preference for N+V incorporation and compounding does not reflect frozen word order or synchronic word order, neither does it appear to reflect any preference for particular diachronic processes, as the kinds of reanalyses

12. See Siewierska & Bakker 1996: Note 23 for the long history of this claim about univertation.

that occurred in Halkomelem and Ngan'gitjemerri are different, and the use of existing morphological models in Frisian and Catalan was different. Rather, the traceable diachronic cases all seem to be driven by the outcome itself: they have evolved as though they were the result of selection of models in favor of verb-final or head-final order, in most cases overriding the syntactic word order.

Is it plausible that verb-final or head-final order might be a universal background or default preference? It is known that verb-final word order is preferred crosslinguistically (Dryer 1989), a preference still in need of explanation.¹³ As an alternative explanation, argument agreement markers are more likely to be preposed than other inflectional markers on verbs (Bybee et al. 1990, Enrique-Arias 2002), so perhaps incorporated nouns – which are arguments in some or all respects – are following the same pattern as affixes. Arguing against this account are the fact that incorporation is not affixation and the fact that affixal agreement marking is not absolutely likely to be prefixal but only more likely than other inflectional categories are, while incorporated nouns are absolutely likely to be preverbal. In favor of a universal head-final background default is the conclusion of Pycha 2008 that, in phonology, the rightmost element in a morphologically complex word tends to be the strongest, controlling such processes as reduplication, umlaut, vowel elision, etc., and that the head-final preference in incorporation and compounding is an instance of the same very general strength relationship. Since universal head-final ordering has some support, is interestingly contentious, and is easy to invoke but hard to demonstrate, we propose it as a hypothesis for future work:

(22) Hypothesis: Head-final ordering is the default.

It can be falsified by showing, language by language or pattern by pattern, that ordering can be better accounted for by other factors. It can be supported, language by language, by falsifying its negation (e.g., showing that it can't be that the language has otherwise inexplicable head-final words) or by showing that an otherwise inexplicable residue of head-final words remains after an otherwise complete analysis. In this article we have shown that the facts of incorporation make the hypothesis plausible. That incorporated nouns are usually preverbal is also a strong and useful typological generalization even if the hypothesis fails more generally.

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13. Newmeyer (2000) suggests that SOV order may be an archaism inherited from Proto-World, but Maslova (2000) shows that this is unknowable on mathematical grounds.

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Abbreviations: 1/2/3/4 1st/2nd/3rd/4th person; 1/3, etc. subject-object prefix complexes; A agent; ABS absolutive; ACC accusative; APP applicative; ART article; BR bound root; CAUS causative; CI continuous indicative; CLS close to speaker; CONJ conjugation marker; DAT dative; DEF definite; DET determiner; DR bivalent direct; EP epenthetic vowel; ERG ergative; F feminine; EX exclusive; FUT future; HAB habitual tense; IM immediate; IMP imperative; IMPF imperfective; INCOMP incomplete; IND indicative; INF infinitive; INSTR instrument; INTR intransitive; INTS intensifier; IRR irrealis; ITN intentional; LOC locative; M masculine; MOT motion; N neuter; NCM noun class (gender) marker; NJ root of a conjugating auxiliary in Marrithiyel; NOM nominative; NZ nominalizer; O object; OBL oblique; PASS passive; PCT punctiliar; PERF perfective; PI punctilinear indicative; PL plural; PRED predicate; PRES present; PRO pronominal prefix or (Samoan) pronominal anaphor; PROG progressive; PST past tense; Q question particle; R realis; REF referential stem; REM remote past tense; RF realis future; RR root of a conjugating auxiliary in Marrithiyel; s subject; SER serial suffix; SG singular; TNS tense; TRANS transitive; VB verbal derivational suffix.

Appendix A

Examples from languages with noun incorporation

Examples of noun incorporation from languages in our sample that were not included in the main text follow. The incorporated noun in each example is roman; discussion is included only as is necessary.

Ainu (isolate; Japan and Sakhalin)

- (A1) *kane rakko o-tumi-osma*
 golden otter APP-war-begin
 ‘The war started because of the golden sea otter.’ (Shibatani 1990: 63)

Alamblak (Sepik Hill; New Guinea)

- (A2) *wa-yufa-yuta-n-r*
 IMP-name-call-2SG-3SG.M
 ‘Call (his) name!’ (Bruce 1984: 170)

Bininj Gun-Wok, a.k.a. Mayali (Gunwinyguan; Australia)

- (A3) *barri-ganj-ngune-ng*
 3.A/3.P-meat-eat-TNS
 ‘They ate the meat.’ (Evans 2003: 330)

Caddo (Caddoan; southern U.S. plains)

- (A4) *há#ku-nas-sininih-sa?*
 IND#1.P-foot-tingle-IMPF
 ‘My foot is asleep.’ (Melnar 2004: 44)

Catalan (Romance, Indo-European; Spain)

- (A5) *el caçador va cama-trenc-ar l’ocell*
 the hunter PST leg-break-3SG.PST the.bird
 ‘The hunter broke the bird’s leg(s).’ (Gràcia & Fullana 1999: 240)

Chukchi (Chukotko-Kamchatkan; Chukotka, Russia)

- (A6) *taŋ-amənan Cəkwaŋaqaq ja-qora-nm-at-len*
 INTS-alone personal.name.3SG.ABS PERF-reindeer-kill-VB-3SG
 ‘Cəkwaŋaqaq all by himself slaughtered reindeer.’ (Dunn 1999: 222)

Cree (Algic; Canada)

- (A7) *kaskihcikwānehwēw*
 ‘He breaks his knee by shot.’ (*ihcikwān* ‘knee’) (Wolfart 1973: 67)

Damana (Chibchan; Colombia)

- (A8) *suzu-n-Ø-go-ka*
 backpack-CONNECTIVE-3SG-knit-FACTUAL
 ‘She knits backpacks.’ (Quesada 1999: 248)

Frisian (Germanic, Indo-European; Netherlands)

- (A9) *wat be-popke-teken-est de hiele tiid*
 what PREFIX-figurine-draw-2SG the whole time
 ‘Why the hell are you drawing figurines all the time?’ (Dijk 1997: 19)

Guaraní (Tupi-Guaraní; Paraguay)

- (A10) *(che) ai-po-pete la-mita*
 I 1.ACC-hand-slap DEF-child
 ‘I slapped the child in the hand.’ (Velazquez-Castillo 1996: 99)

Haida (isolate; western Canada)

The formative *ts’a* is part of the verb stem, preceding the incorporated noun *da sq’asgiid*:

- (A11) *giyaangw-ee ’la ts’a da sq’asgiid sdang-gan*
 cloth-DEF 3PL INSTR yard be.two-PST
 ‘She cut a two-yard length of the cloth.’ (Enrico 2003: 788)

Kiowa (Kiowa-Tanoan; U.S. Great Plains)

- (A12) *é-álò-dòp-è'*
 2/3SG.A/1SG.P/SG.O-apple-request-PERF
 'He asked me for an apple.' (Watkins & McKenzie 1984: 227)

Kwak'wala (Northern Wakashan; western Canada)

- (A13) *q'əmdzək^w-ila-ixsd-ida* *bəg^wanəma-χa* *q'əmdzək^wi?*
 salmonberries-give.feast-want-DET man-O salmonberries
 '[when] the man wants to give a salmonberry feast (of salmonberries)'
 (S. Anderson 1992: 30)

Lakhota (Siouan-Catawba; U.S.)

An incorporated body part noun cannot take possessive prefixes, even if obligatorily (inalienably) possessed as an independent noun:

- (A14) a. *napé makipazo* *we*
 hand 1.S-DAT-show IMP
 'Show me your hands.' (de Reuse 1994: 210)
 b. **ni-nápe makipazo* *we*
 2.S-hand 1.S-DAT-show IMP
 'Show me your hands.' (de Reuse 1994: 210)

The following show a locative prefix optionally preposed to the entire noun-incorporation compound:

- (A15) a. *chą-tagle*
 heart-set
 'have designs on someone' (de Reuse 1994: 213)
 b. *a-chą-tagle*
 LOC-heart-set
 'have designs on someone' (de Reuse 1994: 213)

Marrithiyel (Western Daly; Australia)

- (A16) a. Nonsyntactic, unproductive noun incorporation
ngirringgi-yan-dim-Ø-a
 1PL.EX.S.RR.IRR-nose-sink-PL.S-PST
 'We should have drowned him.' (Reid 2003: 117–119, following Green 1989)
 b. Syntactic, productive noun incorporation
ginj-inj-duk-miri-ya *sjiri*
 3SG.S.NJ.PF-2SG.O-pull.out-eye-P splinter
 'She removed a splinter from your eye.' (Reid 2003: 117–119, following Green 1989)

These are the only examples cited, and ‘eye’ in the productive example is not clearly object, but Reid (2003: 117) says that this type does include object incorporation (RR, NJ = roots of conjugating auxiliaries). Reid’s terms for the two types are “lexical” and “syntactic”, respectively. In the unproductive type the incorporated noun precedes the lexical or heavy verb piece (Reid: coverb) and follows the conjugating auxiliary or light verb (Reid: finite verb). We take the conjugating auxiliary to be just a bearer of inflectional marking, so that unproductive incorporation is preverbal. Notes to Tables 2 through 5 track the implications of changing this analysis and taking the auxiliary to be the verb.

Movima (unclassified, probably isolate; Brazil)

Examples showing classificatory bound root incorporated into the verb.

- (A17) a. *loy it chu?-na as manka*
 ITN 1 knock.down-DR ART.N mango
 ‘I’ll pick the/a mango.’ (Haude 2006: 283–284)
- b. *loy in’ chuk-a:-ba n-is manka*
 ITN 1.INTR knock.down-DR-BR.round OBL-ART.PL mango
 ‘I’ll pick mangos.’ (Haude 2006: 283–284)
- c. **loy it chuk-a:-ba is manka*
 ITN 1 knock.down-DR-BR.round ART.PL mango

Incorporated full noun with external coreferential noun:

- (A18) *n-os chon’ pul-a-lolos-wa-y’ti n-os lo:los*
 OBL-ART.N.P HAB sweep-DR-yard-NZ=1.P OBL-ART.N.P yard
 ‘... when we always swept the yard.’ (Haude 2006: 284)

Murrinh-Patha (Southern Daly; Australia)

Productive incorporation of affected body part (in experiencer-object construction):

- (A19) *thunku dem-ngi-darri-lerrkperrk*
 fire 3.A-1.O-back-heat
 ‘The fire makes my back feel hot.’ (Walsh 1987; retranscription)

This noun incorporation construction admits the same two analyses as the Marrihiyel one above, and is similarly tracked in footnotes.

Ngandi (Gunwingguan; Australia)

- (A20) *ŋagu-jundu-geyk-d-i gu-jundu-yuŋ*
 1SG/3SG-stone-throw-?-TNS NCM-stone-ABS
 ‘I threw a stone.’ (Heath 1978: 118–119)

Nisgha (Tsimshianic; British Columbia, Canada)

- (A21) *qùt-ho:n n'ì:y*
 gut.something-fish me
 'I gutted fish.' (Tarpent 1987: 792)

Nuuchahnulth (Wakashan; British Columbia, Canada)

(A22a) is an unincorporated clause showing regular verb-initial word order. The verb is a bound verb which cannot occur independently; to be used without incorporation it must take the referential stem (REF), a dummy incorporated element. (A22b) has incorporation. Though at first glance the incorporated noun *suuḥaa* 'spring silver salmon' does not appear to be flanked by verbal material, the absence of the referential stem and the otherwise impossible OV word order make it clear that the first element in (A22b) is incorporated.

- (A22) a. *?u-it'yaap-'atl suuḥaa*
 REF-bring.as.gift spring.silver.salmon
 'He brought a gift of spring silver salmon.' (Stonham 2004: 219)
 b. *suuḥaa-it'yaap-'at*
 spring.silver.salmon-bring.as.gift-PASS
 'He brought a gift of spring silver salmon.' (Stonham 2004: 219)

Oneida (Iroquoian; northeastern U.S.)

- (A23) *la-ahy-k-s sá'yes*
 PRO-fruit-eat-SER blackberries
 'He's (fruit-)eating blackberries.' (Abbott 2000: 63)

Retuarã (Tucanoan; Colombia)

In (A24) ditransitive 'put' has become monotransitive as a consequence of incorporation (*sa-* agrees with 'canoe' and not with incorporated *terĩ* 'seat').

- (A24) *bikitoḥo sa-ii-terĩ-hãã-rãyũ*
 morning 3.N.SG-3.M.SG-seat-put-FUT
 'In the morning he will put seats in it (canoe).' (lit. 'he will seat-put it') (Strom 1992: 100)

Saweru (West Papuan; New Guinea)

- (A25) *ruama wo-mo mo=rama a-bai*
 woman 3SG.F.ERG 3SG.F.NOM=man 3SG.M-hit
 'The woman hit the man.' (Donohue 2001: 327)

Slave (Athabaskan; Canada)

- (A26) *te-fi-yé-niṣhu*
 water-head-CONJ-2SG-put
 ‘You have put your head in water.’ (Rice 1989: 659; interlinear added)

Sora (Munda, Austroasiatic; India)

- (A27) *gəd-bəŋ-te-ji*
 cut-buffalo-TNS-3PL.S
 ‘They are slaughtering the buffalo.’ (Zide 1997: 259)

Takelma (isolate; Oregon, U.S.)

- (A28) *gwen-wayá-sgōʷtʷi*
 neck-knife-cut-he.them
 ‘He cut their necks off with his knife.’ (Sapir 1922: 68)

Tiwi (isolate; Australia)

- (A29) *ji-məni-kəi-ŋa*
 he-me-hand-grab
 ‘He grabbed me by the hand.’ (Osborne 1974: 47)

Tukang Besi (Malayo-Polynesian, Austronesian; Indonesia)

- (A30) *no-sai kuikui-mo*
 3.R-make cakes-PERF
 ‘S/he has made cakes.’ (Donohue 1999a: 168)

Warembori (Lower Mamberamo; New Guinea)

- (A31) a. Syntactic, productive noun incorporation
e-mune-məna-ro
 1SG-kill-dog-IND
 ‘I killed a dog.’ (Donohue 1999b: 43–47)
 b. Nonsyntactic, unproductive noun incorporation
e-pue-kambi
 1SG-pig-hunt
 ‘I hunt for pigs; I go pig-hunting.’

Wari’ (Chapakuran; Brazil)

- (A32) *hu capam’ in rain pacun!*
 blow cornbread completely 2SG.RF-3.N stone
 ‘Turn the stones into cornbread!’ (Everett & Kern 1997: 386)

Washo (isolate; Nevada, U.S.)

One of the bipartite stem types consists of a body part lexical prefix or (if there is no prefix in the needed sense) an incorporated noun plus one of a closed set of verb stems. The body part is generally intransitive subject or direct object of the verb. In Jacobsen's morphophonemic transcription the two morphemes are separated by a space.

- (A33) *duḽ išl /duléšil/*
 hand give
 'offer one's hand to someone' (Jacobsen 1980: 93)

Yana (isolate; California, U.S.)

- (A34) *mic'-au-wilmi-si-ndja*
 hold-fire-on.one.side-PRES-1SG
 'I hold fire in one hand.' (Sapir 1911: 269)

Yimas (Lower Sepik; Papua New Guinea)

- (A35) *ura-mpu-na-akpi-api-n*
 fire.O-3PL.A-DEF-back.NCM.SG-put.in-PRES
 'They are putting (their) backs to the fire.' (to warm themselves) (Foley 1991: 320)

Yucatec (Mayan; Guatemala)

- (A36) *k in č'ak-čeʔ-t-ik in kòol*
 INCOMP 1SG.A chop-wood/tree-TRANS-IMPF my cornfield
 'I chop wood/trees in my cornfield.' (Bricker 1978: 16)

Appendix B Languages with noun incorporation, their types, and examples

Language	Syntactic	Productive	Mithun type	Rosen type	IN position	Word order	Example
Ainu	1	1	III*	Class	Pre	OV	App. A
Alamblak	1	1		Class**	Pre	OV	App. A
Bininj Gun-Wok	1	1	IV	Class	Pre	free	App. A
Blackfoot		1	II		Pre	VO	App. A
Caddo	1	1	IV	Class**	Pre	n.d.	App. A

Language	Syntactic	Productive	Mithun type	Rosen type	IN position	Word order	Example
Car Nicobarese	1	1		Class**	Post	VO	(5)
Catalan	1	0	II**	Class**	Pre	VO	App. A
Chukchi	1	1	III	Cpd	Pre	OV	App. A
Cree	1	1			In/Post	n/a	App. A
Damana	0	0?		Cpd**	Pre	OV/free	App. A
Frisian	0	1	I,II***	Cpd***	Pre	OV	App. A
Guaraní	1	1	II		Pre	VO	App. A
Haida	0	0		Cpd**	Pre	OV	App. A
Halkomelem	0	0		Cpd***	Pre	VO	
Halkomelem	1	1		Cpd***	Post	VO	(14)
Kiowa	1	1		Class**	Pre	OV	App. A
Kwak'wala	1	1		Class**	Pre	VO	App. A
Lakhota	0	1			Pre	VO	App. A
Mapudungun	1	1	III*	Cpd**	Post	VO	(2)
Marrithiyel		1			Post	OV	App. A
Marrithiyel	0	0			Pre/Post	OV	App. A
Movima	0	1	I***	Class**	Post	VO	App. A
Murrinh-Patha	1	1			Pre/Post	OV	App. A
Nahuatl	1	1	III	Class**	Pre	VO	(10)
Ngandi	1	1	IV	Class**	Pre	OV	App. A
Nisgha	0	1	I**	Cpd**	Post	VO	(8)
Nuuchahnulth	0	0			Pre	VO	App. A
Nuuchahnulth	1	1			Pre	VO	App. A
Oneida	1	1	IV	Class	Pre	VO	App. A
Retuarã	0	0?		Cpd**	Pre	OV	App. A
Samoan	1	1	I	Cpd	Post	VO	(6)–(7)
Saweru	1	1			Pre	OV?	App. A
Slave	1	1		Class?***	Pre	OV	App. A
Somali	1	1			Pre	OV	App. A
Sora	1	1	III		Post	OV	(1)
Takelma	1	1			Pre	OV	App. A
Tiwi	1	1	III		Pre	VO	App. A
Totonac	1	1			Pre	VO	(13)
Tukang Besi	1	1		Cpd**	Post	VO	App. A
Tümpisa Shoshone	0	1	I**	Class**	Pre	OV	(15)
Warembori	1	1			Post	VO	App. A
Warembori	0	0			Pre	VO	App. A
Wari	1	1			Pre	VO	App. A
Washo	0	0			Pre	OV	App. A
West Greenlandic	1	1		Cpd**	Pre	OV	(12)
Yana	1	1			Post	VO	App. A

Language	Syntactic	Productive	Mithun type	Rosen type	IN position	Word order	Example
Yeli Dnye	1	1		Cpd**	Pre	OV	(4)
Yimas	0	0			Pre	free	App. A
Yucatec	1	1	II	Class?***	Post	VO	App. A

* Classification from Mithun 1984 or Baker et al. 1985. ** Our classification. *** Classification by author of grammar. IN = incorporated noun.

Appendix C

Language data for ordering of elements in synthetic compound nouns (sorted by clause word order, then compound order)

Language	Family	Clause word order	Compound order	Sources
Dongolese Nubian	East Sudanic	OV	N+V	Armbruster 1960: 155
Amharic	AA: Semitic	OV	N+V	Leslau 1995
Somali	AA: Cushitic	OV	N+V	Saeed 1999
Kanuri	Saharan	OV	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Koyraboro Senni	Songhai	OV	N+V	Heath 1999: 170
Sumerian	Sumerian	OV	N+V	Karahashi 2000
Ingush	Nakh-Daghestanian	OV	N+V	Johanna Nichols
Abkhaz	West Caucasian	OV	N+V	Chirikba 2003
Georgian	Kartvelian	OV	N+V	various dictionaries
Basque	isolate	OV	N+V	Saltarelli 1988: 262
Turkish	Turkic	OV	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Persian	Indo-European	OV	N+V	Maziar Toosarvandani
Paite	Tibeto-Burman	OV	N+V	Singh 2006
Burmese	Tibeto-Burman	OV	N+V	Soe 1999: 22–25
Japanese*	isolate	OV	N+V	Shibatani 1990: 240–241
Nivkh	isolate	OV	N+V	Mattissen 2003, Gruzdeva 1998: 23
Alamblak	Sepik Hill	OV	N+V ?	Bruce 1984
Diyari	Pama-Nyungan	OV	N+V	Austin 1981: 162–164

Language	Family	Clause word order	Compound order	Sources
Dyirbal	Pama-Nyungan	OV	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Nez Perce	Plateau Penutian	OV	N+V	Aoki 1970: 88–89
Tunica	isolate	OV	N+V	Haas 1941: 75
Slave	Athabaskan	OV	N+V	Rice 1989: 946–947
Lakhota	Siouan-Catawba	OV	N+V	de Reuse 1994, Rood & Taylor 1996: 454
Koasati	Muskogean	OV	N+V	Kimball 1991: 347, 469–470
Damana	Chibchan	OV	N+V	Quesada 1999
Imbabura	Quechuan	OV	N+V	Cole 1982: 198
Quechua				
Yoruba	NC: Benue-Congo	VO	N+V	Awoyale 1997
Ewe	NC: Kwa	VO	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
English*	Indo-European	VO	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Russian*	Indo-European	VO	N+V	Kiparsky 1975: 345–350, Johanna Nichols
Finnish	Uralic	VO	N+V	Serebrennikov & Kert 1958: 279–280
Armenian	Indo-European	VO	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Vietnamese	Austroasiatic	VO	N+V	Richard A. Rhodes, personal communication
Yagua	Zaparo-Yagua	VO	N+V	H. Anderson 1997
Turkana	Eastern Nilotic	VO	V+N	Dimmendaal 1983: 292–295
Swahili	NC: Benue-Congo	VO	V+N	Sam Mchombo, personal communication
Arabic	AA: Semitic	VO	V+N	Kaye 2005, personal communication
Pulaar	NC: Atlantic	VO	V+N	H. Anderson 1997
Hausa	AA: Chadic	VO	V+N	H. Anderson 1997
Berber	AA: Berber	VO	V+N	H. Anderson 1997
Irish	Indo-European	VO	V+N	H. Anderson 1997
French	Indo-European	VO	V+N	Nicole Marcus
Mandarin	Sino-Tibetan	VO	V+N	Li & Thompson 1981: 73–81, Shibatani 1990: 241
Tagalog	AN: WMP	VO	V+N	Zuraw 2006, H. Anderson 1997

Language	Family	Clause word order	Compound order	Sources
Samoan	AN: Polynesian	VO	V+N	Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992
Nisgha	Tsimshianic	VO	V+N	Tarpen 1999
Tzutujil	Mayan	VO	V+N	Dayley 1985: 190–191
Cayuvava	isolate	VO	V+N	Key 1967: 43–44
Mapudungun	isolate	VO	V+N	Smeets 1989: 423
Bininj Gun-wok	Gunwingguan	None	N+V	Evans 2003: 327–328
Warlpiri	Pama-Nyungan	None	N+V	Nash 1986: 37–38
Yimas	Lower Sepik	None	N+V	Foley 1991

AA = Afroasiatic, NC = Niger-Congo. Entries taken from H. Anderson 1997 have not been checked. Clause order from Dryer 2005a where sources give no basic order. * = The predominant order for this language; the other occurs as a minor or restricted type.

Appendix D Languages with instrumental affixes

Language	Family	Clause order	Affix order
Achumawi	Palaihnihan	VO	Ins+V
Atsugewi	Palaihnihan	free	Ins+V
Biloxi	Siouan-Catawba	OV	Ins+V
Blackfoot	Algonquian	free	V+Ins
Chayahuita	Cahuapanan	OV	Ins+V
Comanche	Uto-Aztecan	OV	Ins+V
Cree	Algonquian	free	V+Ins
Crow	Siouan-Catawba	OV	Ins+V
Diegueño	Yuman	OV	Ins+V
Eastern Pomo	Pomoan	OV	Ins+V
Haida	isolate	OV	Ins+V
Ineseño Chumash	Chumashan	VO	Ins+V
Kawaiisu	Uto-Aztecan	OV	Ins+V
Klamath	Klamath-Sahaptian	free	Ins+V
Kutenai	isolate	VO	V+Ins
Lakhota	Siouan-Catawba	OV	Ins+V
Luiसेño	Uto-Aztecan	VO	Ins+V
Lule	Lule-Vilela	OV	Ins+V
Maidu	Maidun (CPP)	OV	Ins+V

Language	Family	Clause order	Affix order
Miwok	Miwok-Costanoan (CPP)	free	Ins+V
Nez Perce	Klamath-Sahaptian (CPP)	free	Ins+V
Ojibwa	Algonquian	free	V+Ins
Ponca	Siouan-Catawba	OV	Ins+V
Sahaptin	Klamath-Sahaptian (CPP)	VO	Ins+V
Shoshoni	Uto-Aztecan	OV	Ins+V
Tinrin	Oceanic (Austronesian)	VO	Ins+V
Tlingit	Na-Dene	OV	Ins+V
Tonkawa	isolate	OV	Ins+V
Wappo	isolate	OV	Ins+V
Yana	isolate	VO	Ins+V

CPP = California and Plateau Penutian; Ins+V = instrumental affix precedes verb root; V+Ins = instrumental affix follows verb root; data from Mithun 1999, Palancar 1999, or Bickel & Nichols 2002ff., Adelaar & Muysken 2004 (Lule, Chayahuita), Osumi 1995 (Tinrin), Matthew Dryer (Kutenai).

Appendix E

Frequencies across continents

	Africa, Eurasia	Pacific	North America	South America
Productive NI	5	13	18	3
Unproductive NI	1	3	4	0
N+V	5	10	17	4
V+N	1	6	4	1
OV	5	7	8	2
VO	1	7	12	3
Productive & N+V	4	7	14	2
Productive & V+N	1	6	4	1
Unproductive & N+V	1	3	4	0
Unproductive & V+N	0	0	0	0
OV & N+V	4	6	8	2
OV & V+N	1	1	0	0
VO & N+V	1	2	8	2
VO & V+N	0	5	4	1

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