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Areal Typology of Southeast Asian Languages: Evidence from the World Atlas of Language Structures

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Author

Comrie, Bernard

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**AREAL TYPOLOGY OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LANGUAGES
EVIDENCE FROM THE WORLD ATLAS OF LANGUAGE STRUCTURES**

Bernard Comrie

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and University of California Santa Barbara
comrie@eva.mpg.de

A. Haspelmath, Martin, Matthew S. Dryer, David Gil, Bernard Comrie (eds). 2005. *The World Atlas of Language Structures*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

B. Haspelmath, Martin, Matthew S. Dryer, David Gil, Bernard Comrie (eds). 2008. *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library. <http://wals.info>

C. Maps taken (sometimes in modified form) from WALS; links are to original maps.

1. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Object and Verb. <http://wals.info/feature/83>
Typical SE Asian value: VO

2. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Adposition and Noun Phrase. <http://wals.info/feature/85>
Typical SE Asian value: Preposition

3. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Genitive and Noun. <http://wals.info/feature/86>
Typical SE Asian value: NG

4. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Adjective and Noun. <http://wals.info/feature/87>
Typical SE Asian value: NA

5. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Demonstrative and Noun. <http://wals.info/feature/88>
Typical SE Asian value: NDem

6. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Numeral and Noun. <http://wals.info/feature/89>
Typical SE Asian value: NNum

7. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Relative Clause and Noun. <http://wals.info/feature/90>
Typical SE Asian value: NRel

8. Dryer, Matthew. Order of Degree Word and Adjective. <http://wals.info/feature/91>
Typical SE Asian value: AdjDeg (e.g. 'good very')

9. Maddieson, Ian. Tone. <http://wals.info/feature/13>
Typical SE Asian value: Complex tone (3 or more distinctions)

10. Maddieson, Ian. Glottalized Consonants. <http://wals.info/feature/7>
Typical SE Asian value: Implosives

11. Maddieson, Ian. Front Rounded Vowels. <http://wals.info/feature/11>
Typical SE Asian value: No front rounded vowels
12. Anderson, Gregory D. S. The Velar Nasal (ŋ). <http://wals.info/feature/9>
Typical SE Asian value: Velar nasal found word-initially
13. Dryer, Matthew. Prefixing Versus Suffixing in Inflectional Morphology. <http://wals.info/feature/26>
Typical SE Asian value: Isolating
14. Dryer, Matthew. Coding of Nominal Plurality. <http://wals.info/feature/33>
Typical SE Asian value: No plural marking or Plural word (e.g. Vietnamese *những chó* 'PL dog')
15. Gil, David. Distributive Numerals. <http://wals.info/feature/54>
Typical SE Asian value: No distributive numerals (cf. German *je drei* 'three each')
16. Dahl, Östen & Viveka Velupillai. The Perfect. <http://wals.info/feature/68>
Typical SE Asian value: Perfect derived from 'finish' or 'already'
17. Gil, David. Numeral Classifiers. <http://wals.info/feature/55>
Typical SE Asian value: Numeral classifiers obligatory
18. Stassen, Leon. Predicative Possession. <http://wals.info/feature/117>
Typical SE Asian value: Topic construction (e.g. Thai *nhà mây mii kaaw* 'mouse NEG there.is glue')
19. Stassen, Leon. Predicative Adjectives. <http://wals.info/feature/118>
Typical SE Asian value: Verb-like adjectives
20. Stassen, Leon. Nominal and Locational Predication. <http://wals.info/feature/119>
Typical SE Asian value: Different constructions (e.g. Thai *kháw pen phâan* 'he be friend'; *bân kháw yùu thaay-nón* 'house s/he be way-yon')
21. Stassen, Leon. Comparative Constructions. <http://wals.info/feature/121>
Typical SE Asian value: Verbal comparative (e.g. Thai *rót tooyootâa thùuk kwàa rót bens* 'car Toyota cheap exceed car Mercedes')

D. Other references

- Comrie, Bernard. 2007. 'Areal typology of mainland Southeast Asia: what we learn from the WALS maps'. In Pranee Kullavanijaya (ed.): *Trends in Thai Linguistics* (=Manusya, Special Issue 13), 18–47. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University.
<http://www.academic.chula.ac.th/manusya/html/paperonline.php> [search on "Comrie" in Search box]
- Comrie, Bernard. 2008. 'The areal typology of Chinese: between North and Southeast Asia'. In Redouane Djamouri, Barbara Meisterernst, & Rint Sybesma (eds): *Chinese Linguistics in Leipzig*, 1–21. (Collection des Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale, 12.) Paris: École des

Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l'Asie Orientale.
 Final version of manuscript downloadable at
<http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/staff/comrie/pdf/Comrie09ArealTypChin.pdf>

Feature values for Southeast Asia

Feature	Thai	Vietnamese	Khmer	Indonesian	Burmese	Mandarin
VO	+	+	+	+	-	+
Preposition	+	+	+	+	-	+
NG	+	+	+	+	-	-
NA	+	+	+	+	+	-
NDem	+	+	+	+	-	-
NNum	+	-	+	-	+	-
NRel	+	+	+	+	-	-
AdjDeg	+	?	+	-	-	-
Complex tone	+	+	-	-	+	+
Implosives	-	+	+	-	-	-
Initial engma	+	+	-	+	+	-
Lack of FRV	+	+	+	+	+	-
Isol morph	+	+	+	-	-	?
Pl Ø or word	?	+	+	-	+	-
Lack of distr num	+	+	+	+	-	+
Finish perf	+	-	+	+	+	-
Num classif oblig	+	+	-	-	+	+
Topic pred poss	+	+	+	+	-	+
Verby pred adj	+	+	+	+	+	+
Nom ≠ Loc pred	+	+	+	+	+	+
Verbal compar	+	+	+	?	-	+
+	19	18	18	13	10	9
-	1	2	3	7	11	11
?/±	1	1	0	1	0	1

Feature values for Northern Asia

Feature	<u>Yakut</u>	<u>Khalkha</u>	<u>Evenki</u>	<u>Korean</u>	<u>Japanese</u>	<u>Ainu</u>	<u>Nivkh</u>	<u>Yukagir</u>	<u>Chukchi</u>	<u>Ket</u>
VO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preposition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>NDem</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>NNum</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	-	-	-
<u>NRel</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	±	?
<u>AdiDeg</u>	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	?	-
Complex tone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Implosives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Initialt engma</u>	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
<u>Lack of FRV</u>	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
<u>Isol morph</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PI Ø or word	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Lack of distr num</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<u>Finish Perf</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Num class oblig</u>	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	?
<u>Topic pred poss</u>	-	-	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
<u>Verby pred adi</u>	-	-	-	±	±	+	+	+	-	-
<u>Nom ≠ Loc pred</u>	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Verbal compar</u>	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	?	-	?
+	0	1	2	3	4	4	5	4	3	3
-	21	20	18	17	16	15	11	16	16	15
?/±	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	1	2	3

Note: Because of the slightly different foci of the presentation at the conference “Languages of Southeast Asia” and the publications Comrie (2007; 2008), there are slight differences in the selection of features; in addition, a few data points have been added/corrected here.