

Interrogatives and Word-order in Sanskrit

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22 February 2013

Recent linguistic theory implies that subject-object-verb (SOV) languages place interrogatives at the end of a sentence. This implies that it would hold true for Sanskrit. It doesn't. Evaluation of the position of interrogatives in prose portions of the Visnupurana confirms the unimportance of word-order in Sanskrit syntax as compared to inflection and suggests various positions of emphasis in the Sanskrit sentence. This in turn suggests a much more fluid approach to syntactic analysis than the linear word-order approach.