Irish VSO order
http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gawron/syntax

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This problem reveals some issues about how to structurally define notions like **subject** and **object**.

A structural definition uses the notions introduced in this chapter:

1. Constituent
2. Dominates
3. Category labels (TP, NP, VP)
Structural definitions of subject, object

**Subject**
The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

**Object**
The object of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by VP.

In order for the definitions to be universal, the notions NP, TP, and VP must all be universal. Are they?
Irish
This tree has a problem!!!!!
This tree has a problem!!!!!!

This tree fixes it!!!!!
Intransitives
The woman danced.

\[ \text{TP} \]

\[ \text{V} \]

\[ \text{Rince} \]

\[ \text{D} \]

\[ \text{N} \]

\[ \text{an} \]

\[ \text{bhean} \]
Choose!
Choose!

Chonaic

V

NP

N

mé

AdjP

Adj

mhór

TP

NP

D

an

NP

N

mhuc
Choose!

1. (TP)
   - V
   - NP
     - Chonaic
     - N
     - mé
   - NP
     - D
     - an
   - AdjP
     - Adj
     - mhór

2. (TP)
   - V
   - NP
     - Chonaic
     - N
     - mé
   - NP
     - D
     - an
   - NP
     - N
     - mhuc
   - AdjP
     - Adj
Definitions of Subject and Object

Subject

The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

No longer works! More than one NP dominated by TP.

No longer works! VP no longer universal!
Definitions of Subject and Object

Subject
The subject of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by TP.

No longer works! More than one NP dominated by TP.

Object
The object of a sentence is the NP immediately dominated by VP.

No longer works! VP no longer universal!
Subject

The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

We may compromise on many things, but
Irish Subject and Object

Subject
The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

1. Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

Object
The object of a sentence is the second NP immediately dominated by TP.

2. Can’t work for English. Give up VP for English?

*We may compromise on many things, but*
Subject
The subject of a sentence is the first NP immediately dominated by TP.

1. Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?

Object
The object of a sentence is the second NP immediately dominated by TP.

2. Can’t work for English. Give up VP for English?

We may compromise on many things, but \[ \text{[VP give up the VP]} \] we never will!