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?
This tree has a problem!!!!!
This tree has a problem!!!!!

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

1. Gawron: Irish VSO order
Choose!

Javaic

NP

N

mé

D

an

N

mhuc

AdjP

Adj

mhór

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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!
Irish Subject and Object
Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?
Subject

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

Maybe we can make this universal? Works for English?
Subject

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

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

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