Imbabura Quechua, p. 1

Imbabura Quechua is a Quechua language spoken in Imbabura province in northern Ecuador. The data here are all taken from Peter Cole (1982) *Imbabura Quechua*. Amsterdam: North Holland. PM 6303 C6

A. Is IQ a VSO, SVO, or SOV language? A head-initial or head-final language?

B. Is IQ a configurational or non-configurational language? Explain your answer with reference to the data.

C. Does IQ conform to each of the following proposed linguistic universals?
   i. Only arguments for which the verb has an agreement marker can be omitted.
   ii. Greenberg Universal 4
   iii. Topics always go at the beginning of a sentence.
   iv. Every sentence must have a subject (either overt or covert).
   v. If any element of a subordinate clause can undergo wh movement (as in a wh question or a relative clause), the subject can.
   vi. Greenberg Universal 18
   vii. Greenberg Universal 15
   viii. Every NP must be Case marked

D. Linguistic universals can be considered to be either absolute universals or tendencies. Obviously, absolute universals are easier to test: finding a single language that does not conform to a proposed absolute universal constitutes evidence against that universal. Tendencies are harder. In either case, of course, the fact that one specific language conforms is not evidence that the proposed universal is, in fact, a universal. In light of the evidence from IQ, other material we have discussed in class and mentioned in the textbook, and other languages you know, comment on the plausibility (as either absolutes or tendencies) of the following putative universals from question 3: i, ii, iv, viii.

Data:

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| a. | Normal word order (and the only order in subordinate clauses)
   Juzi kaynay- mi Marya- man jatun wagra- ta kara- rka.  
   José yesterday- FOCUS María- DAT big cow- ACC give- PST.3SUBJ
   ‘Yesterday, José gave María a big cow.’ |

b. Frequent alternative word order in main clauses
   Juzi rura- rka jatun wasi- ta- ka.  
   José make- PST.3SUBJ big house- ACC- TOPIC
   ‘José made a big house.’ |
(2) a. Kitu- man- mi ri- ju- ni.
    Quito- DAT- FOCUS go- PROG- 1sgSUBJ
    ‘I am going to Quito.’

    b. Marya maka- rka.
    María hit- PST.3SUBJ
    ‘María hit him/her/someone.’

(3) Adjuncts immediately precede the constituent they modify. This is true of the first part of sentence negation (glossed ‘no’) as well; the second part (glossed ‘NEG’) marks the end of the negated constituent. The two parts of the negation are like brackets marking the negated constituent.

    very beautiful cow- ACC see- PST- 1sgSUBJ
    ‘I saw a very beautiful cow.’

b. Marya- ka Utavalu- man chaya- shpa pay- paj ñaña- ta
    María- TOPIC Otavalo- DAT arrive- ADV she- POSS sister- ACC
    search.for- PST.3SUBJ
    ‘Upon arriving in Otavalo, María searched for her sister.’

c. Juzi ñapash chay ruwana- ta rura- rka.
    José quickly that poncho- ACC make- PST.3SUBJ
    ‘José made that poncho quickly.’

d. Juzi mana chay llama- ta randi- rka- chu.
    José not that sheep- ACC buy- PST.3SUBJ- NEG
    ‘José did not buy that sheep.’

e. Juzi mana chay llama- ta chu randi- rka.
    José not that sheep- ACC- NEG buy- PST.3SUBJ
    ‘It wasn’t that sheep that José bought.’

(4) Miscellaneous stuff

a. Pay- ka kunan Agatu- pi kawsa- n
    he- TOPIC now Agato- in live- 3SUBJ
    ‘He lives in Agato now.’

b. Kayna- mi urku- pi rasu- rka.
    yesterday- FOCUS mountain- in snow- PST.3SUBJ
    ‘(It) snowed on the mountain yesterday.’
c. Ñuka wawki- wan kawsa- ni.  
   My brother- with live- 1sgSUBJ  
   ‘I live with my brother.’

d. Muna- y- man ñuka mama- ta riku- ngapaj.  
   want- 1sgSUBJ- CONDIT my mother- ACC see- SBJNCT  
   ‘I want to see my mother.’

e. Juan wagra- ta randi- shka- ta ya- ni.  
   Juan cow- ACC buy- NMNL- ACC think- 1sgSUBJ  
   ‘I think Juan bought a cow.’

f. Ima- ta- taj ya- ngui Juan randi- shka- ta ?  
   what- ACC Q think- 2sgSUBJ Juan buy- NMNL- ACC  
   ‘What do you think that Juan bought?’

g. *Pi- taj ya- ngui wagra- ta randi- shka- ta ?  
   who Q think- 2sgSUBJ cow- ACC buy- NMNL- ACC  
   ‘Who do you think bought a cow?’

h. [NP ñuka wawki randi- shka alku ]  
   my brother buy- NMNL dog  
   ‘the dog my brother bought’

Abbreviations used in glosses:

1sgSUBJ first person singular subject (agreement marker)  
2sgSUBJ second person singular subject (agreement marker)  
3SUBJ third person subject (agreement marker)  
ACC accusative Case  
ADV adverbal clause marker (complementizer)  
CONDIT conditional  
DAT dative Case  
FOCUS marks NP as focus and includes information about source of information (Cole calls these suffixes “validators”)  
NEG marks the end of a negated constituent  
NMNL nominal clause marker (complementizer); nominal clauses are subordinate clauses that have certain NP-like properties; for example, they are often marked with accusative Case (after the NMNL morpheme)  
not marks the beginning of a negated constituent  
POSS possessive (genitive) Case  
PROG progressive  
PST past  
Q interrogative marker (on the end of a wh phrase)  
SBJNCT subjunctive  
TOPIC marks NP as topic