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(1) a. S (definite/indefinite) V  
b. V S (\*definite/indefinite)

(2) a. *Dua naskhah majalah (itu)* ada di atas meja.  
two CLASSIFIER magazine that be at on table  
'(The) two magazines are on the table.'  
b. *Ada dua naskhah majalah (\*itu)* di atas meja.  
'There are (\*the) two magazines on the table.'

(3) a. The longer the subject is, the more likely it is to occur after the verb.  
b. In adverbial clauses the preferred word order is VS rather than SV.

I claim that these tendencies can be explained by means of a functional notion ‘topic’. Specifically, (3a) results from the competition between topicality and (structural) heaviness of the subject NP and (3b) from a constraint on ‘topic-over-topic’ configuration.