Basic word order: subject, verb, and object (SVO)

Simple sentences conform to the SVO order:

我中意佢 [ŋɔi33 dzəŋ33 yi33 kui33]  
I love him/her  
I love her.

佢中意我 [kui33 dzəŋ33 yi33 ŋɔi33]  
s/he loves me  
She loves me.

我去过美国 [ŋɔi33 hui33 go33 mi21 gɔk55]  
I go-EXP The U.S.  
I've been to the states.

我未曾去过英国 [ŋɔi33 mian21 hui33 go33 yein33 gɔk55]  
I not-yet go-EXP England  
I've not been to England.

Adverbs and adverbial phrases come before the verbs:

佢成日都讲笑啲 [kui33 siaŋ22 ɲit215 du55 gɔŋ55 liau3335 gɔ33 ya55]  
s/h always all joke SFP  
He makes jokes all the time.

我下个星期放假 [ŋɔi33 ha32 goi33 lein33 ki22 fɔŋ33 ga55]  
I next CL week take-leave  
I'm off next week.

Aspect markers, verbal particles, and expressions of duration/frequency can be inserted between the verb and the object:

我睇出 诶一个秘密 [ŋɔi33 hai55 tsut55 ə33 yit55 goi33 bi33 mit32]  
I find-out PFV one CL secret  
I've discovered a secret. (ŋ" = aspect marker)

佢已经读完书 [ŋɔi33 yi21 gein33 ak32 yɔn22 si33]  
s/he already read finish book  
She's finished her studies. (完 = verbal particle)

我学诶八年英文 [ŋɔi33 hɔk32 ə33 bat33 nein22 yein33 mun225]  
I study PFV eight-year English  
I've been studying English for eight years. (八年 = duration phrase)

我21见过几次面 [ŋɔi21 gein33 go33 gi55 lu33 mein32]  
we see EXP several times face  
We've met a few times (几次 = frequency phrase)

Deviation from SVO word order

OSV/SOV order: fronting the object for emphasis:

(a) Normal SVO order: 我未曾去过英国 (I've not been to England)
(b) Normal SVO order: 我中意佢 (I love her)

佢我中意 [kui33 yei33 dzəŋ33 yi33]
s/he I love OSV order

Note that there is no SOV for this example. In (a), it is clear that I is the subject and England is the object regardless their relative positions, but that is not true for the current case.

**OSV/SOV order: constructs with 都 and quantified object:**

两幅画我 都想买 [ək55 fək55 va32 yei33 du55 liəŋ55 mai33]
two-CL picture I all want buy OSV order

我两幅画都想买 [yei33 fək55 fək55 va32 du55 liəŋ55 mai33]
I two-CL picture all want buy SOV order

I want to buy both pictures.

个个我 都中意 [ŋɔi33 gəi33 dzəŋ33 yi33]
CL-CL I all love OSV order

我个个都中意 [ŋɔi33 gəi33 gəi33 du55 dzəŋ33 yi33]
I CL-CL all love SOV order

I love everyone!

**Verb+Subject order with intransitive verbs:**

今日来诶好 多大粒墨 [gim33 ŋit21 lɔi33 ə 33 ə 33 ai32 lip55/33 mak21 (ə55)]
today come PFV very many big-mole

A lot of big shots came today.

昨日打大风, 破诶好几间屋, 死诶几个人
yesterday blow big-wind collapse-PFV very several-CL house die-PFV several-CL people

There was a windstorm yesterday. Quite a few houses collapsed and several people died.

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