(O) Don’t Sell the House! (1/2)

O1. Cáu chánh đấy non.  
O2. Da pháy non!  
O3. Muhn bơ sâhmb mi sênh hêh tôn mî?  
O4. Muhn ngám bơ sâhmb phó hônh.  
O5. I wasn’t about to eat it just previously.  
O6. She didn’t have to eat it alone like that just now.  
O7. The house truly can’t eat you.  
O8. Then were you also about to go just previously?

I can truly sleep.  
Don’t go sleep!  
Was she also unwilling to build the house?  
She also went home just now.  
Cáu náhc-thây ca mi kihn.  
Muhn ngám mi sêy tûnh kihn.  
Hon mî chánh đây kihn muhn.  
Muhn náhc-thây chóng ca bơ sâhmb pháy mî?

Explanation:

In Nung, word order is fixed, meaning that for a given sentence, there is only one correct way to order the words. We can figure out from comparing sentences with the same subject, same adverb, same main verb, or same object that in Nung, sentences are constructed in subject-adverb-verb-object-question.marker order, where there can be many adverbs and ‘it’ as an object is left unsaid but implied. ‘Like that’ is treated as an object in terms of word order.

The correct order of adverbs is as follows, listed from first to last:

nâhc-thây        just previously  
ngám            just now  
chóng            then  
ca              about to  
vũh nhâhng     continue to  
bơ sâhmb      also  
mî               not  
chánh               truly  
slông / sây / fái / đày want / [don’t] have to / have to / can  
tûnh            alone

In addition, we know that da ‘don’t’ and tan đohc ‘only’ both occur before the verb, but in our data, no other adverbs occur in the same sentence as da or tan đohc, so it is unclear what the correct order should be.

The main question and challenge of the problem consists of identifying the correct positioning of adverbs, which always occur in a fixed order. A strategy for discovering this is to list all the orderings attested, and merge those to create a comprehensive order for all the adverbs provided. Crucially, it is necessary to also consider the Nung sentences provided without translations in order to clarify where in the pattern the adverb ngám lies.
The secondary challenge of the problem is to map Nung sentences onto English ones: not only the word order but also the meaning may differ slightly. For example, in Nung ‘build a house’ is expressed as ‘do house’. For the purposes of this problem, small differences in translation that represent equally valid interpretations of a Nung or English sentence are allowed as long as they follow proper Nung or English word order.

List of words not previously defined:

cáu  i
khải  sell
muãng  you
hàhn  see
kíhn  eat
non  sleep
hềht  do, build
mi  question marker
páy  go
hơn  house, home
mưhn  she
pehn té  like that