Word order typology with ditransitive verbs

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There are 6 basic word order possibilities: SOV (i.e. subject, object, and verb), OSV, SVO, OVS, VSO, and VOS; while there are 2 possibilities, if we consider intransitives: SV and VS. In categorial grammar, when the verb is peripheral, the s-command is written in one way: either S/NP/NP or S\NP\NP depending on whether the verb comes before or after the noun phrase. This means that a single verb category can suffice for both transitive and intransitive constructions. On the other hand, when the verb is medial, there are 2 possible ways of writing the s-command, i.e. S/NP\NP and S\NP/NP, and each align with a different intransitive word order. For example, for the basic word order SVO and the intransitive word order SV, it makes sense to have the s-command S/NP\NP not to have an extra category for both transitive and intransitive verbs. These additional 2 categories increase the possible types to 8 since intransitives are also considered.

If we consider word order with indirect objects, we would have 4 elements: subject (S), object (O), verb (V), and indirect object (I). The surface possibilities, not considering transitives and intransitives, are 24: VSOI, VSIO, etc. If we consider transitive and intransitive possibilities and also make sure that no extra category is necessary, 24 increases to 48, although not all of them may be attested. For example, if the word order is SVIO, the s-command has 3 possibilities: S/NP/NP\NP, S/NP\NP/NP, and S\NP/NP/NP. Each would translate into one possibility for transitives and intransitives. For example, for the s-command S/NP/NP\NP, not to require an extra category, the transitive verb would have to be S/NP/NP and the intransitive verb would be S/NP.

Semantically, intransitives have subjects (S), transitives have agents (A) and patients (P), and ditransitives have agents (A), themes (T) and recipients (R) as per William Croft. In *nominative-accusative* languages, agents of transitives (A) align with subjects of intransitives (S), while in *ergative-absolutive* languages, patients of transitives (P) align with subjects of intransitives (S). Languages where recipients (R) correspond to patients of transitives (P) as primary objects and themes (T) get a separate treatment are called *secundative*. If the roles are reversed (T=P), they are called *indirective*. There are also languages that treat both themes (T) and recipients (R) as primary objects. Malchukov reports that there are accusative-indirective, accusative-secundative, ergative-indirective, and ergative-secundative languages attested. Integrating ditransitive word order would help distinguish between these types of languages.