null subject languages and English as a *non-null subject language*. It is to be noted that either language type has or has not the *null subject parameter* ;i.e. there is no language that allows the *null subject parameter* for some finite and not for others.

Another basic parametric difference between languages concerns *word order*. The first type of word order parametric variation concerns the *wh-parameter* ,which is the parameter which determines whether *wh-expressions* can be fronted (i.e. moved to the front of the overall interrogative structure containing them). For example, English allows the *wh-parameter* ;but languages such as Chinese and Arabic do not, as shown in 16.

16.

(i)*What* do you think he will say?

(ii) ni xiangxin ta hui shuo *shenme*
you think he will say *what*?

(iii) tiftikir huwwa hay?uul *?eeh*?
you think he will say *what*?

In languages such as Chinese and Arabic, the *wh-word* does not move to the front of the sentence, rather it "remains *in situ*(i.e. in the same place as would be occupied by a corresponding noninterrogative expression)." (A.Radford,1997: 17) Again, this parameter is *binary* in nature; i.e. a language either does or does not allow *wh*-movement.

A second type of *word-order* variation concerns the relative position of **heads** and **complements** within phrases. It is a general and universal property of phrases that every phrase has a head word which determines the nature of the overall phrase. For example, in *students of linguistics* , *in the kitchen* ,and in *fond of fast food* ,it is the first word that is the head of all these phrases and in turn determines the nature of these phrases ,making the first phrase a Noun Phrase, the second a Prepositional Phrase, and the third an