Examples of typical types of existential constructions

English
i. **there is** water on the table
ii. **there is** a dog in the garden
iii. **there are** apples on the tree
iv. **there are** people in the room
v. **there are no** pictures on the wall

Italian
i. **c'è** acqua sul tavolo
   ‘there is water on the table’
ii. **c'è** un cane in giardino
    ‘there is a dog in the garden’
iii. **ci sono** mele sull'albero
     ‘there are apples on the tree’
iv. **ci sono** persone nella stanza
     ‘there are people in the room’
v. **non ci sono** quadri sul muro
   ‘there are no pictures on the wall’

French
i. **il y a** de l'eau sur la table
   ‘there is water on the table’
ii. **il y a** un chien dans le jardin
    ‘there is a dog in the garden’
iii. **il y a** des pommes sur la table
    ‘there are apples on the table’

Spanish
i. **hay** agua en la mesa
   ‘there is water on the table’
ii. **hay** un perro en el jardín
    ‘there is a dog in the garden’
iii. **hay** manzanas en la mesa
    ‘there are apples on the table’

Mandarin
i. zhuozi shang you shui
   ‘there is water on the table’
Japanese

i. tsukue-no-ue-ni mizu-ga a-ru
   desk-GEN-top-LOC water-NOM exist-PRES
   'there is water on the table'

ii. niwa-ni inu-ga i-ru
    garden-LOC dog-NOM exist-PRES
    'there are dogs in the garden'

Irish

i. ní raibh aon ghluaisteán an uair sin ann
   NEG be [PAST] any car that-time in-it
   'there were no cars in those days'

ii. do bhí triúr driothár ann agus iad pósta
    [PAST] be [PAST] three brother in-it and them married
    'there were three brothers and they were married'

iii. beidh go leor bia ann
     be [FUT] plenty food in-it
     'there'll be plenty of food'

[Irish examples from McCloskey 2014]