

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
LOC.be.3S water on.the table
'there is water on the table'
- ii. **c'è** un cane in giardino
LOC.be.3S a dog in garden
'there is a dog in the garden'
- iii. **ci sono** mele sull' albero
LOC be.3P apples on.the tree
'there are apples on the tree'
- iv. **ci sono** persone nella stanza
LOC be.3P people in.the room
'there are people in the room'
- v. **non ci sono** quadri sul muro
NEG LOC be.3P pictures on.the wall
'there are no pictures on the wall'

French

- i. **il y a** de l'eau sur la table
it LOC have.3S of the water on the table
'there is water on the table'
- ii. **il y a** un chien dans le jardin
it LOC have.3S a dog in the garden
'there is a dog in the garden'
- iii. **il y a** des pommes sur la table
it LOC have.3S of.the apples on the table
'there are apples on the table'

Spanish

- i. **hay** agua en la mesa
have.3S water in the table
'there is water on the table'
- ii. **hay** un perro en el jardín
have.3S a dog in the garden
'there is a dog in the garden'
- iii. **hay** manzanas en la mesa
have.3S apples in the table
'there are apples on the table'

Mandarin

- i. zhuozi shang **you** shui
table on have water
'there is water on the table'

- ii. zhuozi shang **you** yiben shu
 table on have one book
 'there is a book on the table'
- iii. **you** gui
 have ghosts
 'there are ghosts'

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]