TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

- The concept of transformational generative grammar (TG grammar) was brought by Noam Chomsky, a well known linguist of second half of the 20th century, in his book *Syntactic Structure* (1957)
- The main objective of TG grammar is to provide a scientific analysis for all kinds of grammatical sentences produced in a language through certain finite sets of rules.

- Transformational generative grammar is a set of grammar rules that are used when basic clauses are combined to form more complex sentences.
- Key concepts in the theory :
 - Phrase structure rules,
 - ii. Transformational structure rules.
 - iii. Morphophonemic rules:
 - a. context-free rules,
 - b. context sensitive rules,
 - c. sub categorization rules,
 - d. complex symbol and
 - e. category symbols

- Transformational Generative Grammar, theories led to the rapid development of English language both at home and in Diaspora.
- This concept is best explained by considering the two key words :
 - i. Transformational
 - ii. Generative.

- 'Transformational' is an adjectival derivation from the noun transformation.
- Transformation in this sense refers to a device or a process of changing the from of one
- 'Generative' is an adjective formed from the 'verb' generate.
- And according to Tomori (1997), generate in this sense (as used in generative grammar) does not mean to produce.
- It means to describe.

• Combining the explanations on the above two key words, therefore, transformational generative grammar implies the type of grammar that seeks to explain the rules governing structural changes the formation of utterances.

The Key Concepts in T G Grammar

- Phrase Structure (or F) Rules.
- With this rules, utterances are analyzed in terms of their syntactic constituents.
- For example, the sentences 'someone ate the food' can be analyzed as:

subject + verb + objective.

 Based on the rules of phrase structure, therefore, the full derivation of the sentence,
 The man lost the money could be given as:

TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

- This grammar works on two basic theories of
 - i. Transformation of sentences &
 - ii. Generation of sentences.
- Tries to evolve a scientific procedure for satisfactory description of syntactic structures produced in a language

- All the complex structures of a sentences are derived from simple structure through the act permutation and combination.
- Complex sentences or varieties of sentences are obtained as a result of transformation of the simple sentences.
- Chomsky talks of:
 - i. Deep Structure, &
 - ii. Surface Structure

of sentences in this regard.

- He considers the simple sentences which are explained by P-S rule as deep structures,
- Those structures which are <u>derived</u> from these deep structures are called surface structures
- For example, The deep structure—

'They play football'

may produce the surface structures like these.

- i. Do they play football?
- ii. Do they not play football?
- iii. football is played by them.
- iv. football is not played by them.
- v. Is football played by them?
- vi. Is football not played by them?
- vii. What do they play?

Dr. A. Kosta

10

 One deep structure may produce many surface structures through the process of transformation.

This:

- i. Deep Structure is kernel sentence &
- ii. Surface Structures are transforms.

A sentence like:

'They came but went away very soon'.

Is transformation of two sentences:

- i. They came and
- ii. they went away very soon

- The kernel sentence is the source and rules of transformation are the agents, and both of these working together, generate all kinds of possible structure.
- Surface structures are generated by deep structures through the application of transformational rules. Therefore this concept has been named Transformational-Generative.

Transformational Rules:

Kernel Structure are:

- i. simple assertive,
- ii. declarative or
- iii. active sentences

that may easily be analyzed according to phrase structure rule.

But,

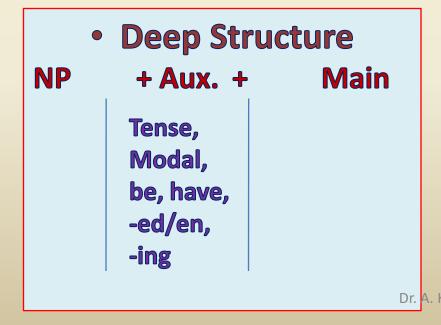
Surface Structures are:

- i. complex,
- ii. interrogative,
- iii. negative,
- iv. passive sentences, etc.

Transformational Rules....

Rule: 01 Interrogative Rule:

 The application of this rule produces an interrogative sentence (Surface structure) as a result of derivation from a kernel sentence (deep structure)



Rule: 01 Interrogative Rule...

- Here, we find that in addition to the change in place of main categories like NP and Auxiliary, affixes (tense, -ed/-ed,, -ing) also change their places.
- Without change of the place of these affixes, the derivation of surface structure is not possible.

Rule: 02 Affix Switch Rule

- During the representation of phrase structure of a kernel sentence, we have seen that 'tense', '-ed/en' and '-ing' work as affixes under the heading 'Auxiliary' as they need as base to be attached to.
- These affixes are placed before the main verb in the phrase structure tree.
- For the derivation of the surface structure from the deep structure, the place of these affixes is changed.

Rule: 02... Interrogative Rule:

Tense, Modal, be, + Main → Modal, be + Main

a. Have they gone?

Is a *surface structure* in interrogative from.

According to the transformational rules, it has been derived from the *deep structure*—

They have gone.

- The phrase structure of this deep structure is shown like this
- D.S. → They (present) have –en –go.

Affix Switch Rule ...

- a. D.S. \longrightarrow They (present) have –en –go.
- Interrogative (present) Have —they —en —go
- Affix Switch : Have (present) -they -gone.

- b. Are they going?
- D.S. → They (present) –be –ing –go
- Interrogative —→ (present) —be —they -ing —go.
- Affix Switch → Be (present) they going.
 (ARE)

Feature of TG Grammar

- It attempts to evolve certain finite sets of rules that may account for infinite number of grammatical sentences produced in a language.
- ii. It has immensely succeeded in disambiguating many complexities related to syntactic structure.
- iii. I has contributed to the degree of scientificity, explicitness, grammaticality and descriptive adequacy of sentences.

Feature of TG Grammar...

- iv. It strikes at the inner mechanism of working of a language at intuitive level, and explores the possibility of accountability for the linguistic creativity of users.
- v. It is very comprehensive and almost all inclusive in its approach as it strives to include in its fold all aspects of sentences.