

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 :***
  - i. **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 form 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

# The Concept of TG...

- 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.



# The Concept of TG...

- He considers the simple sentences which are explained by **P-S rule** as deep structures,
- Those structures which are derived from these *deep structures* are called *surface structures*
- For example, The **deep structure**—  
**‘They play football’**  
may produce the surface structures like these.

# The Concept of TG...

- 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?

# The Concept of TG...

- 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 Concept of TG...

- 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)

### • Deep Structure

<b>NP</b>	<b>+ Aux. +</b>	<b>Main</b>
	Tense, Modal, be, have, -ed/en, -ing	

### • Surface Structure

<b>Aux.</b>	<b>+ NP +</b>	<b>Main</b>
Tense, Modal, be, have,		-en -ed -ing

# 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 a 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  $\longrightarrow$  Modal, be + Main

### a. Have they gone?

Is a *surface structure* in interrogative form.

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.**  $\longrightarrow$  They – (present) – have –en –go.

# Affix Switch Rule ...

a. D.S. → 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

- i. 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.