Contents

Typographical conventions xi
Preface xv

1 The study of language 1

Different views of language: of the man-in-the-street, the philosopher, the literary critic, the psychologist, etc., the linguistic approach – neutral, unslanted, language for its own sake. 1

Different linguistic theories: survey of different schools of linguistics. 3

The linguistic approach to language: objectivity; systematicness; descriptive approach; balance between language-specific and language-universal; distinction of synchronic and diachronic; language as a structure; language as a tool with different functions. 8

Questions for study 16
Further reading 17

2 Language as a semiotic system 18

Some basic notions: sign, signal, symbol; type and token; code and message; signal, noise and redundancy. 18

Language-independent semiotic systems: traffic lights, cricket umpire’s signals, etc.; logical, mathematical and musical symbols; paralanguage. 22

Distinctive characteristics of language: discreteness of symbols, “double articulation”, arbitrariness, different media, range of meanings – including “displacement” and creativity; comparison with animal “languages”. 27
The organization of language: expression and content; “form” and “substance”.

Linguistic relations and values: paradigmatic, syntagmatic and functional relations; linguistic values, constants and variables, distinctiveness, determinant and demarcative value, -emic and -etic.

Rules and tendencies

Questions for study

Further reading

3 The task of grammar

The scope of grammar: plerematic and cenematic; grammar and semantics; grammar and lexis; morphology and syntax.

The morpheme as a basic unit: criteria of recurrence and meaningfulness; problems of unique morphemes, polysemy and homonymy.

Kinds of grammar: prescriptive and descriptive, monolingual and bilingual grammars; text-based, exemplificatory and generative grammars; competence and performance, grammar as a theory of competence; “hocus-pocus” and “God’s truth”.

Questions for study

Further reading

4 Generative grammar – rules and descriptions

Judging the adequacy of a grammar: explicitness in traditional grammar, in Jespersen, in Harris and in generative grammar.

Finite-state grammars: their capacity and their limitations.

Rewrite grammars: their conventions, their capacities and their subvarieties.

Phrase-structure grammars: “descriptive adequacy” and tree diagrams; kinds of rule and their formulation; context-sensitive rules.

The adequacy of phrase-structure grammars: transform
mational relations, discontinuous constituents, deep and surface grammar; problems of 'observational adequacy'.

Questions for study
Further reading

5 Grammatical analysis

Description and analysis: the exploration of grammatical competence, intuitions and their evaluation: grammatical “same” and grammatical “different”, minimal grammatical differences: the purpose of operational tests, their difference from discovery procedures.

Grammatical tests (substitution, expansion and reduction, insertion and omission, permutation/transposition, complex “transformations”) and their uses.

Grammatical patterns: resolution of structures into patterns; the marking of patterns by structural signals (=grammatical markers).

Questions for study
Further reading

6 Constructions – the problem of “bracketing”

Constructions and constituents: “togetherness”, Ultimate Constituents and Immediate Constituents, hierarchy of constructions; notations for bracketing.

Establishment of constructions: operational tests to justify bracketing; bracketing as only one aspect of constructions, alongside relational and class aspects, giving three different kinds of syntactic ambiguity.

The analysis of constituent patterns: problematic cases such as determiner-adjective-noun; multiple constituents; crossing of word boundaries; discontinuous constituents.

Relations of constituents within a construction: the notions of endocentric, exocentric, subordinative and coordinative; the semantic relationships conveyed by constructions.

Questions for study
Further reading
7 Grammatical class – the problem of “labelling”

Class and subclass: class as a set of substitution lists; grammatical restrictions on co-occurrence; subclasses.

Syntactic features: hierarchical classification and cross-classification; syntactic feature matrices and system networks; marked and unmarked.

Neutralization: system-determined, context-determined and lexically determined.

Class membership: multiple membership of classes ("class cleavage").

Class markers: overt and covert.

Agreement between subclasses (= subcategories): concord, government and cross-reference.

Questions for study
Further reading

8 Transformations

The raison d'être of transformations: different notions of transformation (traditional, Harris’s, Chomsky’s); different functions of transformations.

Transformations in generative grammar: the format of transformational rules; optional and obligatory transformations, deep and surface structure, meaning-changing and meaning-preserving transformations; “classical theory”, “standard theory”, “extended standard theory” and “generative semantics”; ordering of rules, intrinsic and extrinsic, the transformational cycle.

The powers of transformations: deletion, substitution, adjunction and permutation; feature specification transformations; limits and limitations on transformations, the primacy of Harris’s transformations.

Questions for study
Further reading

9 “Rank” – the size units of grammar

The rank scale and other scales: traditional view of sen-
tence, clause, phrase, word and morpheme; scales of realization and delicacy.

*Embedding*: of sentences, of noun phrases, and of other elements; markers of embedding; embedding in generative grammar.

*Coordination*: elements that may be coordinated (conjoined); length and depth of coordinative constructions; coordination in generative grammar; markers of coordination.

*A critical view of rank*: defining the sentence; the nature of clauses and phrases; an alternative view of "rank".

*Questions for study*

*Further reading*

10 **Morphological structure**

*Words and morphemes*: the nature of the word; bound and free morphemes; root, stem and affix; derived and inflected words; complex and compound words.

*Morphology and phonology*: allomorphy, phonological and morphological conditioning; kinds of affix, morphological zero, subtractive and replacive morphs; models of morphophonemic description (IA, IP and WP).

*Lexical and inflectional morphology*: word-formation and its "particularism", productivity; kinds of derivational affix; patterns of compounding; inflectional morphology, its morphophonemic complexities and its relation to syntax.

*Questions for study*

*Further reading*

11 **Grammar and meaning**

*Grammatical classes and meaning*

*Secondary categories and meaning*: gender, number, deixis & person, case, voice, mood, tense, aspect, etc.

*Grammatical structures and meaning*: the treatment of verbal auxiliaries; subject; object, etc. and the abstract notion of case; the generative semantic view.
Grammar, meaning and logic: grammatical universals, logic as a universal base; propositional calculus, predicate calculus and quantifier logic; the illogicality of natural language.

Questions for study
Further reading

12 Grammar and discourse

Textual links between sentence parts: shared knowledge of speaker and addressee, implications; givenness of the referent and of the lexeme, optional deletion (ellipsis); news value; presuppositions, assertions and hypotheses; theme, rheme, and hyperthème.

Sentence patterning within the text: subordinative and coordinative relations between sentences, the role of conjunctions and sentence adverbials; functional types of sentence; speech acts and performatives; sentence planning, conversational analysis, analysis of written texts.

Questions for study
Further reading

Bibliography
Index