

CONTENTS

1	What a Grammar Is, and Isn't	1
1.1	Goals of Linguistic Theory	2
1.2	Pernicious Metaphors	6
1.3	Some Common Criticisms of Generative Grammar	11
2	Topics and Hypotheses	15
2.1	The Problem of Grammatical Analysis	15
2.2	Finding an Analysis: Questions and Answers	16
2.2.1	Finding a Suitable Topic: What Do You Want to Know, and Why Do You Want to Know It?	17
2.2.2	Testing Specific Hypotheses	22
2.2.3	Choosing Among Potential Solutions	24
2.2.4	How To Cope When Things Go Wrong	24
2.3	Non-syntactic Explanations for Apparently Syntactic Facts	25
3	Argumentation	37
3.1	The Role and Nature of Argumentation in Linguistics: Evaluating Claims through Hypothetico-Deductive Inquiry	37
3.2	The Empiricalness of Linguistic Argumentation	39
3.3	Precision	41
3.4	Universality	43
3.5	The Danger of Ad Hoc Hypotheses	45
3.6	Kinds of Arguments	45
3.7	The Form of Arguments	47
3.8	Troubleshooting	48
4	Presentation	53
4.1	Organization	55
4.2	A Note on Citations	60
5	The So-called Standard Theory	65
5.1	The Base Component	66
5.2	Transformational Rules	67
5.3	The Lexicon	68
5.4	Semantic Interpretation Rules	69
5.5	The Phonological Component	69

5.6	Rule Interaction	69
5.7	The Principle of Cyclic Application of Transformations . . .	71
5.8	Classes of Rules	78
6	Developing Constraints on Possible Descriptions	81
6.1	Island Constraints	81
6.2	Output Conditions	91
6.3	Other Kinds of Constraints on Derivations	95
7	Theoretical Frameworks	101
7.1	Modern Phrase Structure Theories	102
7.2	The Government and Binding Theory	106
7.3	Relational Grammar (RG)	109
7.4	Perspective	113