**Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA)**

**In another word I.C. Analysis** is that system of grammatical analysis that breakup sentences into sequential layers, or constituents until in the final layer, and every constituent consists of only a word or meaningful part of a word.

**Approach of I.C. Analysis:** The initial emphasis was upon pure segmentation, simply breakup the sentence into its constituent parts without, at first, knowing what these parts were:

Generally the section is binary except in some cases where section into three or more points is allowed.

**Terms:** Ultimate, immediate, and larger construction, linear structure.

**(i) The concept of constitute and constituent:** The important thing to note here is the fact that constitute and constituent are relative terms. For example, “poor John” is a constitute when viewed in relation to “poor” and “John”, but it is a constituent when viewed in relation to the sentence as a whole.

**(ii)Morphemes as Ultimate Constituents:** The proponents of IC analysis also emphasized that the ultimate constituents of a sentence are morphemes and not words. Hockett (1958), “morphemes rather than words are the elementary building blocks of language in its grammatical aspect

* An immediate constituent - is a word or a group of words that functions as a single unit within a hierarchical structure.
* The linguistics procedure which divides sentences into their component parts or constituents in this way is known as constituent analysis.
* The segmentation of the sentence up into its immediate constituents by using binary cuttings units its ultimate constituents are obtained is an important approach to the realization of the nature of language called Immediate Constituent Analysis (IC Analysis).

In ICs the relationship is analyzed and identified after each cut is made. The first cut yields structures that function as subject and predicate. This is an example;

***Structures: (NP) noun phrase (VP) verb phrase***

***Functions: Subject Predicate***

That the ultimate constituents of a sentence are morphemes and not words is one of the basic assumptions of grammatical analysis these days but during the early days of linguistics it was useful to emphasize such things.

* *Poor John ran away.*

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Subject Predicate

Adjective Noun Verb Particle

Poor John ran away

**I.C. Analysis of Sentences:** A single sentence is made up of an NP (subject) and a predicate phrase. This predicate phrase which is apart from a compulsory verbal group may optionally have one or more noun phrase(s), preposition phrase(s) and adverbial and adjective phrases.

1. The biggest linguistic unit or construction is sentence.
2. A sentence is constructed by phrases, and thus, can be analyzed into phrases.
3. A phrase is constructed by words, and thus, can be analyzed into words.
4. The ultimate constituent analysis of a sentence considers morpheme rather than a word (as in case of ICA) as ultimate constituent.
5. The ultimate constituents - are the smallest meaningful units which any given construction can be broken down to, consisting of, a morpheme at the morphological level and a word at the syntactic level.

**Limitations of ICA**

* Immediate constituent analysis has its limitations. It is not possible to analyze such structures, for example, some sentences that are structurally similar but semantically they are different.

1. {Robert + [is easy + to please]}.

2. {Robert + [is eager + to please]}.

Here it is not easy to distinguish who is easy and eager to Robert or People.

The police killed the robber with gun.

Flying planes can be dangerous.

Each sentence has two meanings a deep structure and a surface structure.this means they have two meanings and whe, dividing the sentences, immediate constituent analysis cannot acount for the exact meaning of these two sentences.