**Generative grammar**

1. **Brief Account of Syntactic Structures (1957)**

The publication of Syntactic structures has made a revolution in linguistics. Chomsky developed a theory known as Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG) because of its aim of constructing a device that would generate all and only the sentences of the language; " the grammar of L will thus be a device that generates all the grammatical sequences of L and none of the ungrammatical ones " (Chomsky, 1957:13).

Moreover, Chomsky changed the subject matter of linguistics arguing that instead of the appropriate subject matter of linguistics being a randomly or arbitrarily selected set of sentences, the proper object of study was the speaker's underlying knowledge of the language; his linguistics competence that enables him to produce and understand sentences he has never heard before.

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|  | STRUCTURALISM | Generative grammar |
| Subject Matter | Corpus of utterances | Speaker's knowledge of  how to produce and  understand sentences, his  linguistic competence |
| GOAL | Classification of the  elements of the corpus | Specification of the  grammatical rules  underlying the  construction of sentences |
| Methods | Discovery procedures | Evaluation procedures |

(John R. Searl, Chomsky's Revolution in Linguistics, June 29, 1972).

In Syntactic Structures (1957), Chomsky proposed three models for the structure of the language; the Finite Markov Process, Phrase Structure Model, which is based on immediate constituent analysis and Transformational Generative Grammar TGG. All in all, the aim of the linguistic theory expounded by Chomsky in Syntactic Structures was essentially to describe syntax, that is, to specify the grammatical rules underlying the construction of sentences.

Noam chomsky a linguist revolutionized modern linguistics by introducing the mind in his theories. Instead of saussure who focuses on the sign, chomsky focuses on the sentence, and how we generate it or coin it. So he came with generative grammar, universal grammar, creativity and competence/performance.

The TGG model has two major components and a minor component:

**2.Phrase Structure**; which contains a set of rules (PS-rules). These rules generate the underlying strings

**3.Transformational Structure**; which contains a set of transformational rules (TRules)that convert the underlying strings into derived strings and later into surface structure. These rules add, delete or change the order of formatives in the terminal string produced by the PS-rules. Some of the transformational are

*obligatory*, and others are *optional*.

Morphophonemic Rules are in a way "spelling notes" which represent the surface structure of the sentence.

**4.Generative grammar**

Is the grammar that allows to produce an infinite set of sentences out of a finite set of rules.

**4.1Competance and performance**

As parole, performance is the utterances produced by the speaker. Competence, what chomsky focuses on, is the speaker’s /hearer’s linguistic knowledge of the language.

**4.2Universal grammar**

Is the grammar which is innate in the human being, and is the capacity to learn many languages easily. This is called also the LAD (language acquisition device).

**4.3Creativity**

Is the ability to produce and understand an unlimited number of sentences never heard before. By the generative grammar which can be learned (for the adult) or acquired (for the infant) you can produce an infinite set of sentences but it needs also the help of creativity because to move from competence to performance we need the GG and the creativity. Also for the for the universal grammar it needs the creativity.

***Sum up :***

Acquisition= UG+ creativity

Learning= GG+ creativity

Creativity= innate

Competance= learned or acquired

5.***Functional grammar***

Halliday completed the theories of Saussure by functional grammar which says that the function (of sentences) is realized by different linguistic structures because of the social context.

For example when we request some thing, we can say it in different ways depending of the social context: if we are talking with a close person we can make our request as “can I use your pen” or “may I use your pen” and I we are talking to foreign people we can say “would you mind it if I used your pen”.

Halliday focus on the context that led to chose this structure and not the structure itself. He wanted to link between the language system and the way in which it is used. His basic unit is the text (everything written or said).