**Micro-linguistic Branches**

Micro-linguistics is concerned with the study of the basic components of language: form, sound and meaning. In micro-linguistic studies, language is studied as a system and how it functions according to a set of rules. Micro-linguistics consists of many interconnected branches:

1. Grammar
2. Morphology
3. Syntax
4. Semantics
5. Phonology

**I. Grammar (Form):** it is a branch of linguistics which studies the rules governing the combination of words, sentences and other elements of language.

**1. Morphology**:it is that part of linguistics which is concerned with the study of the internal structure of ***words*** and word formation. It analyzes how words can be divided into their constituent elements which are called ***morphemes***. The morpheme is defined as the smallest meaningful unit.

Door one morpheme

Cat/s two morphemes

Re/start two morphemes

Farm/er two morphemes

Speak/ing two morphemes

De/activ/ate three morphemes

**2. Syntax**: it is that part which deals with the regularities governing the combination of words. It is also defined as the rules underlying the construction of ***sentences***. It is by means of syntactic rules that we can specify the grammaticality or ungrammaticality of sentences. To illustrate, a sentence is a combination of words, but not any combination of words is a sentence. Let’s consider the following example:

* the+boy+an+apple+ate+quicky
* How many words do we have?
* Six words.
* How many combinations can we make?
* Many.
* Are all these combinations ***grammatical***?
* No.
* Examples of ***grammatical*** sentences:
* The boy ate an apple quickly.
* The boy quickly ate an apple.
* Examples of ***ungrammatical*** sentences
* \*Ate an apple quickly the boy.
* \*The boy an apple ate quickly