**Chomsky's Definitions of Language and Grammar**

1. **Definition of Language**

For Chomsky, "A language is a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in

length and constructed out of a finite set of elements."(*Syntactic Structures*, p.13). This

definition concerns *all* languages (natural and man-made). It implies the following points:

- Language is a collection of the ***infinite number of possible sentences.***

- Every sentence is ***finite*** in length.

-Every sentence is made up of elements that can be collected in a set, and that

***can be counted*** (sounds, morphemes and words)

-Language is defined in terms of **“sentences”**

**B) Definition Of Grammar:**

Grammar is defined as "a device which generates all and only the grammatical

sentences of a language." This definition implies the following points:

 The **sentence** is the basic unit to be described by grammar.

 A grammar **generates** sentences. That is to say, it produces an infinite number of

sentences out of precisely specified rules. (A word taken from maths = to

“generate” is to act as a base of a given set

 The rules of generative grammar represent knowledge.

 A grammar generates “all and only” the **grammatical** (intuitively accepted as **wellformed**)

sentences of a language. That is to say, grammar should be able to

generate **all** possible grammatical sentences of the language, and it excludes the

**ungrammatical** (**ill-formed**) ones.