



Syntax- Structure of English grammar



Preview

- **Syntactic theory**
- **Types of grammar**
- **Traditional grammar**
- **Structural grammar**
- **Traditional grammar**



What is syntax

Syntax is:

- ✓ Grammar of a language
- ✓ Study of how words are combined together
- ✓ Considering an area which studies the formation of phrases, clauses and sentences



Syntactic theory

- Is about the rules and principles to make meaningful sentences.
- Sentences are not just the strings of words.
- There are strict syntactic rules about the structure of sentences.
- Structure at phrasal and sentence level.



Types of grammar

Three types of grammars are:

- Traditional grammar
- Structural grammar
- Transformational generative grammar

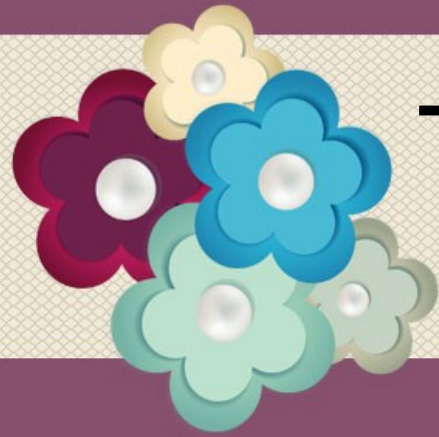


Traditional Grammar



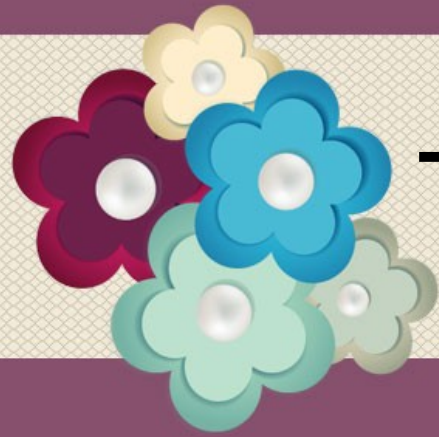
Traditional grammar

- Framework for the description of the structure of English language
- Prescriptive approach
- Put emphasize on
 - ✓ Correctness
 - ✓ Linguistic purism
 - ✓ Literary excellence
 - ✓ Use of Latin models



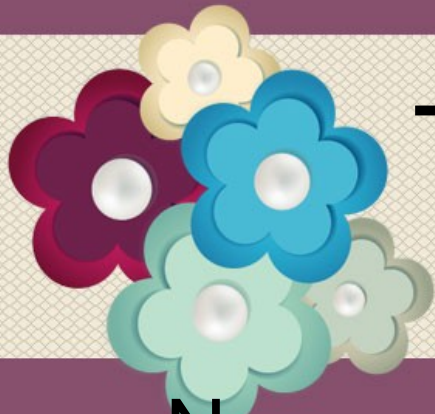
Traditional grammar

- Concepts treated in traditional grammar include:
 - ❖ Analyzing sentences into parts of speech
 - ❖ Identifying the various components



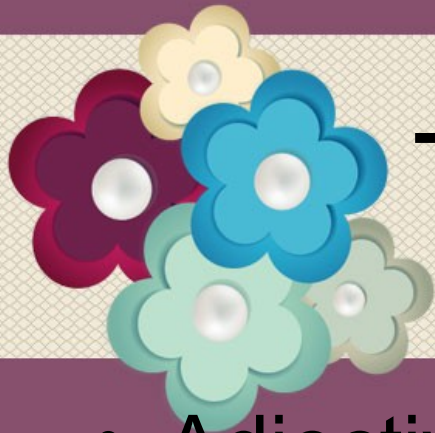
Traditional grammar

Parts of speech



Traditional grammar

- Noun:
 - ✓ Name for something—whatever one wants to refer to in order to talk about it. For example: I like to read book.
- Pronoun:
 - ✓ A word that is used in place of a noun or noun phrase. Like: **Jenny** goes to college, He goes to college.



Traditional grammar

- Adjective:

- ✓ Modifies a noun or pronoun. For example:

My **shirt** is red.

- Verb:

- ✓ Work as **action**

- ✓ Signifying the **predicate**

- ✓ Indicating what is being **asked** about the subject.

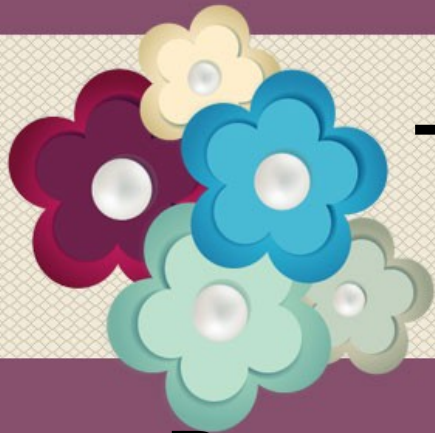


Traditional grammar

For example:

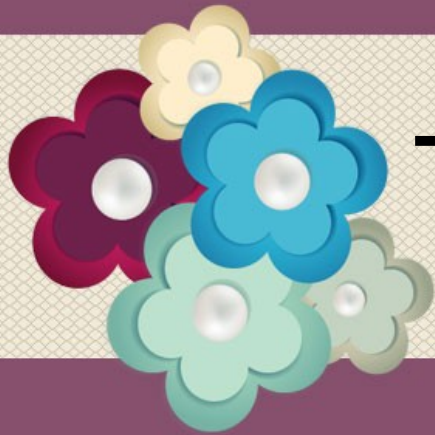
Laura went to the neighbor.

- Adverb:
- ✓ Modifies a verb, an adjective, other adverbs, or the whole sentence. Like: the boy plays well, he did his work extremely well etc.



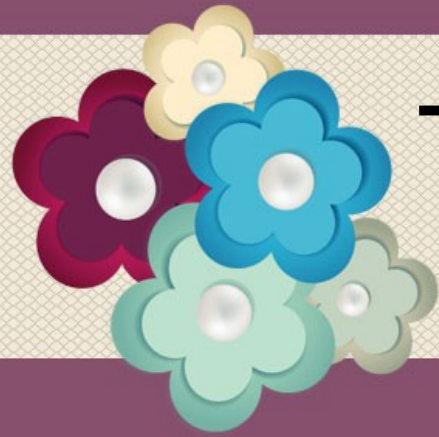
Traditional grammar

- Preposition:
 - ✓ Words (in, at, on near, with, without) are used with nouns or pronouns providing information about time, place and other connections with action or things.
 - ✓ For example: he wakes up early in the morning, Mr. Dean lives near our house ect.



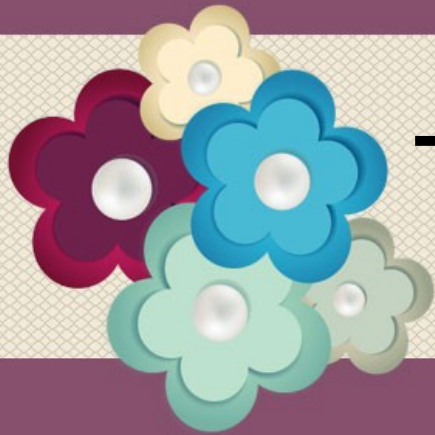
Traditional grammar

- Conjunction:
 - ✓ Work as connectors. Like: grammar is the process that helps us to learn the structure of a language.
- Interjection:
 - ✓ Expresses emotion. For example: hey, you!



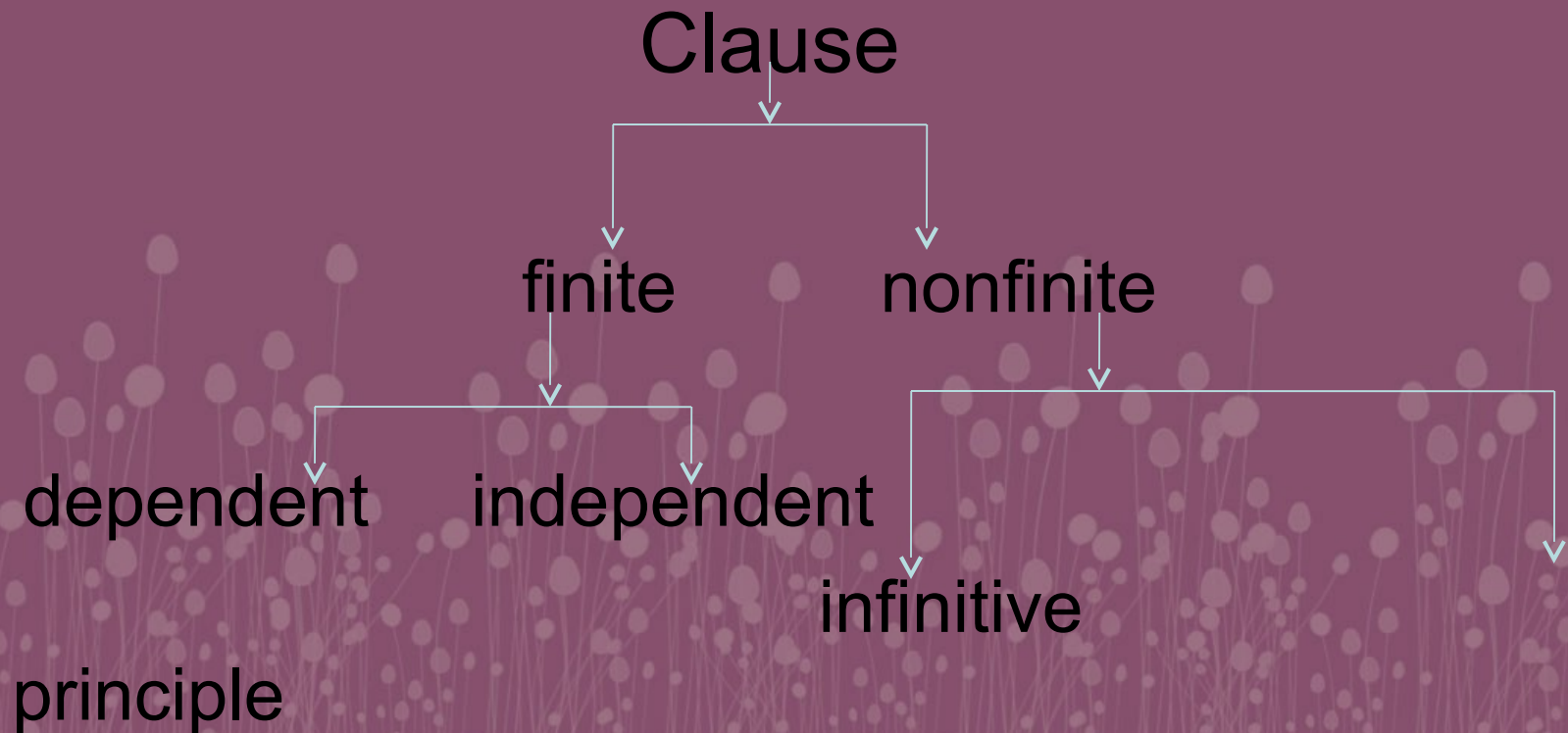
Traditional grammar

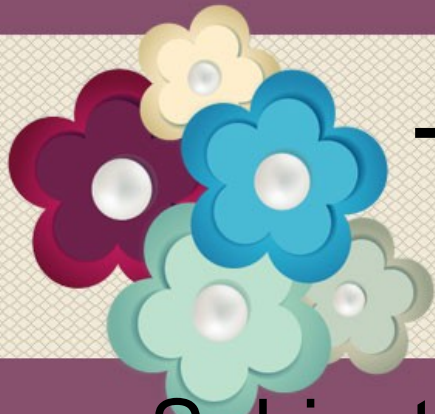
Sentence analyzing



Traditional grammar

- Consists of at least one finite **clause**





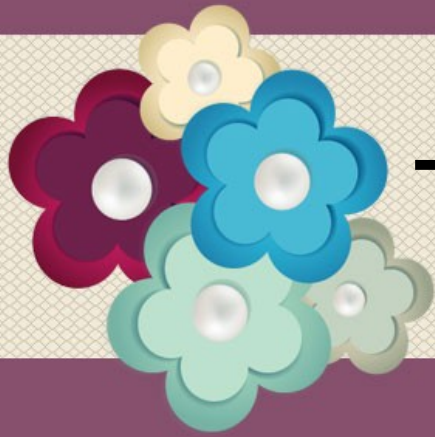
Traditional grammar

- Subject:
 - ✓ Thing being talked about.
- **Noun**- Mila is my friend.
- **Pronoun**- She is my friend.
- **Phrases** containing a noun or pronoun-
the car is white.



Traditional grammar

- Predicate:
 - ✓ Finite verb- Tom **promised** to try to do the work
- Object: the information of verb or action.
 - ✓ Direct object:
 - The person or thing that is directly affected by the action.
- Indirect object: indirectly affected.



Traditional grammar

Example:

Noa gave Joly **the book**.

or,

Noa gave **the book** to Joly.



Structural grammar



Structural grammar

- Descriptive approach to grammar.
- Emphasis on the function of words and sentences.
- Analyze the structure of a language
- No place of semantics in structural grammar.
- No creativity.



Structural grammar

Constituent analysis:

The woman kept a large snake in a cage.



Structural grammar

Labeled and bracketed diagram:

Labeled:

(((the) (dog)) ((loved) ((the) (girl))))

Bracketed:

(((the)art (dog)N)NP ((loved)V ((the)art
(girl)N))VP]S



Transformational generative grammar



Transformational grammar

- A set of rules for generating the sentences of the language.
- Meaning is an integral part.
- Drives the surface structure of each sentence from one or more deep structures through a set of transformational rules.



Transformational grammar

Sentence structure:

❖ Every sentence have two levels of structure:

- Deep structure
- Surface structure



Transformational grammar

➤ Deep structure:

- Basic structure of sentence.
- Relating to the abstract, underlying meaning of a sentence.
- Formed by **phrase structure rules**.
- Original-Assertive-Positive



Transformational grammar

➤ Surface structure:

- The superficial or apparent structure of sentence
- Related with the grammatical form of a sentence
- Formed by **transformational rules**.



Transformational grammar

Examples:

- Nora broke the window.
- The window was broken by window.



Transformational grammar

Phrase structure rules:

- $S = NP + VP$
- $NP = \{DET (ADJ) N, Pro, PN\}$
- $VP = V + NP (PP) (ADV)$
- $PP = Prep + NP$
- $Adj.P = Adj + NP$



Transformational grammar

Tree diagram

- Noun phrase:

A boy



Transformational grammar

Tree diagram-

- Verb phrase:

Took the money



Transformational grammar

Tree diagram-

- Prepositional phrase:

From hand to mouth



Transformational grammar

Tree diagram-

- Sentence:

The girl saw a dog



Transformational grammar

Movement rules:

- Deletion
- Rearrangement
- Passivisation



Transformational grammar

➤ Deletion:

- You close the window
- Close the window



Transformational grammar

➤ Rearrangement:

- The door is white.
- Is the door white?



Transformational grammar

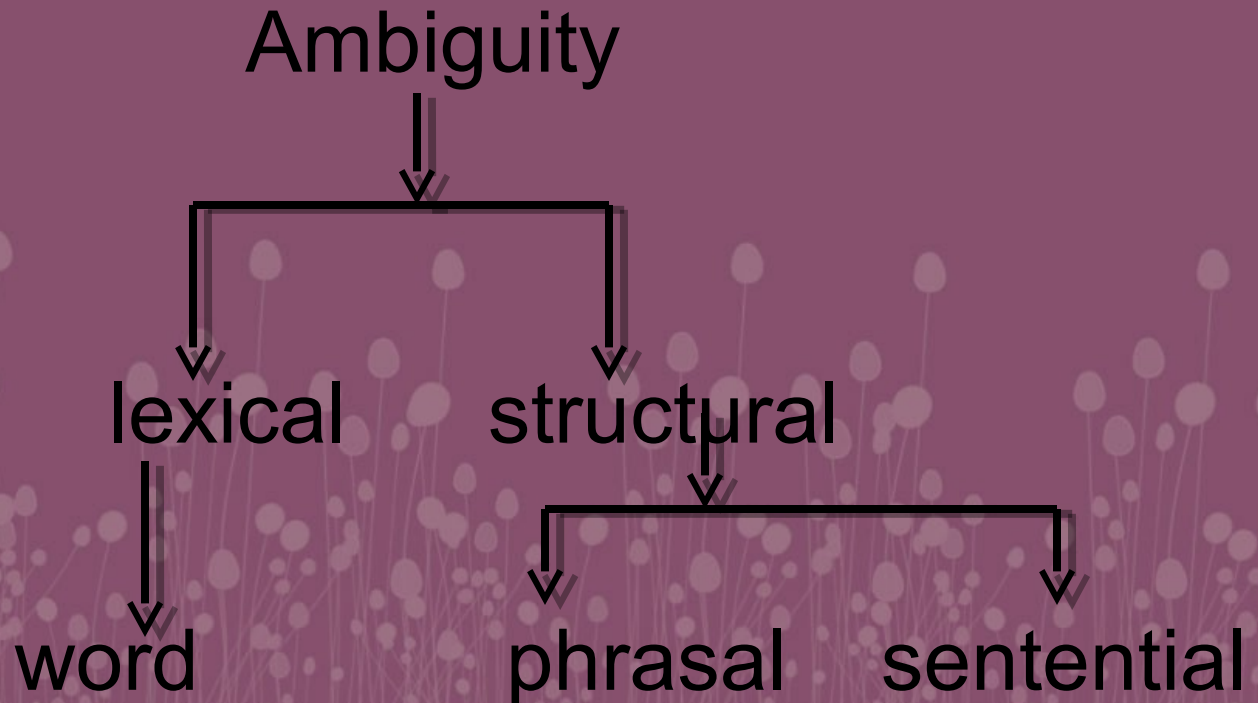
➤ Passivisation:

- Our honorable teacher MR. Zafar Muhammad Mahmud teaches us linguistics.
- We are taught linguistics by our honorable teacher MR. Zafar Muhammad Mahmud.



Transformational grammar

➤ Ambiguity:





Transformational grammar

Ambiguity:

- John is sitting near the bank.
- Mary will hit the student with the book.



Transformational grammar

Lexical rules:

- PN: {Mary, George}
- N: {girl, dog, boy}
- Pro: {it, you, he}
- V: {play, work}
- Art: {a, an, the}



Transformational grammar

Generative:

- Finite rules \longrightarrow infinite number of well formed sentences.
- Productivity of language.



Transformational grammar

Recursion:

Repetition
=
Productivity



Transformational grammar

- Can make new phrases or sentences from other phrase or sentence.
- Examples:
 - ✓ Work hard.
 - ✓ Try to work hard.
 - Mary helped George.
 - Cathy knew that Mary helped George.



Transformational grammar

❖ Five basic sentence rules are:

- i. Sub + Intran.verb
- ii. Sub + Tran.verb + D.O
- iii. Sub + Tran.verb + I.O+ D.O
- iv. Sub + linking verb + sub.compliment
- v. Sub + Tran.verb + D.O + obj.compliment



Review



Reasons for studying syntax:

- ✓ Our knowledge of a language consists of:
 - Finite number of words.
 - Rules (the grammar of the language).



- ✓ Infinite of expressions:
 - An infinite number of possible utterances in every language
 - All this utterances can not be stored in our brains
- ✓ It is the job of the syntactician to find out what these rules are.



Language acquisition:

- ✓ Understanding syntax helps us to understand:
 - How young children learn their native language
 - How to use the rules
- ✓ But nobody can state exactly what the rules are!



Universal Grammar:

- Theory of Chomsky UG has
Principles + parameters:
- Principles, true of all languages
- All languages have same underlying structures. Like: every language have nouns and verbs



- Parameters, whose setting varies from language to language. For example:
English and Chinese SVO; Japanese SOV



Thank you...

