An **interface descriptor**is a descriptor whose reference class is an interface. Each domain class specified in OracleAS TopLink has a related descriptor. **A descriptor is a set of mappings that describes how an object's data is represented in a relational database.** It contains mappings from the class instance variable to the table's fields, as well as the transformation routines necessary for storing and retrieving attributes. **The descriptor acts as the link between the Java object and its database representation.**

An interface is a collection of abstract behavior that other classes can use. **It is a purely Java object concept and has no representation on the relational database. Therefore, a descriptor defined for the interfaces does not map any relational entities on the database**.

**Steps in Creating ArrayDescriptor and ARRAY Objects**

This section describes how to construct an oracle.sql.ARRAY object. To do this, you must:

1. Create an ArrayDescriptor object (if one does not already exist) for the array.
2. Use the ArrayDescriptor object to construct the oracle.sql.ARRAY object for the array you want to pass.

An ArrayDescriptor is an object of the oracle.sql.ArrayDescriptor class and describes the SQL type of an array. Only one array descriptor is necessary for any one SQL type. The driver caches ArrayDescriptor objects to avoid recreating them if the SQL type has already been encountered. You can reuse the same descriptor object to create multiple instances of an oracle.sql.ARRAY object for the same array type.

Collections are strongly typed. Oracle supports only named collections, that is, a collection given a SQL type name.

**STRUCT DESCRIPTOR**

A StructDescriptor is an instance of the oracle.sql.StructDescriptor class and describes a type of SQL structured object (Oracle object). Only one StructDescriptor is necessary for each Oracle object type. The driver caches StructDescriptor objects to avoid recreating them if the type has already been encountered.

Before you can construct a STRUCT object, a StructDescriptor must first exist for the given Oracle object type. If a StructDescriptor object does not exist, you can create one by calling the static StructDescriptor.createDescriptor() method. This method requires you to pass in the SQL type name of the Oracle object type and a connection object:

StructDescriptor structdesc = StructDescriptor.createDescriptor

(*sql\_type\_name*, *connection*);

Descriptor of a SQL structured object. (That is an SQL Object type). Its main responsibility is understanding how to convert between various representations of such a struct.