

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

RAITH ZEHER ABID

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **What is Grammar?**
- Grammar is a way of describing the structure of phrases and sentences which will account for all the grammatical sequences and rule out all the ungrammatical sequences.
- **There are two major approaches to Grammar:**
- Traditional Approach
- Structuralist approach

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **Traditional Grammar:**
- **Prescriptive Approach:** Traditional grammar is prescriptive in nature. It aims to prescribe rules for "correct" language usage. It often focuses on norms and standards, attempting to define what is considered proper or acceptable in a language.
- **Based on Latin Grammar:** Traditional grammar, especially in English, was heavily influenced by Latin grammar. This led to the emphasis on rules like not ending sentences with prepositions and avoiding split infinitives, which are derived from Latin but don't necessarily apply to English.
- **Parts of Speech:** Traditional grammar categorizes words into parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) and defines their roles in sentences.

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **Traditional Grammar:**
- **Emphasis on Syntax and Morphology:** Traditional grammar pays a lot of attention to sentence structure and word forms. It focuses on analyzing the inflectional and derivational properties of words.
- **Limited Descriptive Power:** It may not always accurately reflect how language is actually used in real-life situations. It can be overly prescriptive and sometimes fail to capture the nuances of natural language.

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **Structural Grammar:**
- **Descriptive Approach:** Structural grammar takes a descriptive approach. Instead of prescribing rules, it aims to describe how language is actually used by native speakers. This involves observing and analyzing the patterns of speech.
- **Based on Linguistic Science:** Structural grammar emerged from the rise of modern linguistics and was heavily influenced by the work of structuralists like Ferdinand de Saussure. It places a strong emphasis on scientific analysis of language.
- **Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, etc.:** Structural grammar delves into various aspects of language including phonology (sounds), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (meaning), and morphology (word forms).

CHAPTER 1: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **Structural Grammar:**
- **Generative Grammar:** A specific type of structural grammar, known as generative grammar, was developed by Noam Chomsky. It focuses on generating sentences based on a set of rules, aiming to uncover the underlying structures of language.
- **Reflects Natural Usage:** Structural grammar seeks to capture the way people naturally use language. It's more adaptable to changes in language over time.

CHAPTER 1: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- Transformational Grammar:
- Transformational grammar, also known as generative grammar, is a theory of syntax (the structure of sentences) in linguistics. It was first developed by Noam Chomsky in the 1950s and has since become one of the most influential and widely studied theories of language.

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- **Key Aspects of Transformational Grammar:**
- Generative Approach:
- Transformational grammar is a generative approach to language. It aims to provide a set of rules and principles that generate (produce) all and only the grammatical sentences of a language.
- Deep Structure and Surface Structure:
- Chomsky proposed that each sentence has two levels of representation: the deep structure and the surface structure. The deep structure represents the underlying syntactic and semantic structure of a sentence, while the surface structure represents the actual arrangement of words.

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- Transformations:
- Transformations are rules that operate on the deep structure to generate the surface structure. They allow for the movement, deletion, and addition of elements in a sentence. Transformations are used to explain how different sentences with similar meanings can have different structures.
- Universal Grammar:
- Chomsky introduced the concept of Universal Grammar, which posits that there is a common underlying structure and set of principles shared by all human languages. According to this theory, humans are born with a biological predisposition for acquiring language, and Universal Grammar provides the framework that allows us to do so.

CHAPTER I: GRAMMARS OF ENGLISH

- Transformations:
- Transformations are rules that operate on the deep structure to generate the surface structure. They allow for the movement, deletion, and addition of elements in a sentence. Transformations are used to explain how different sentences with similar meanings can have different structures.
- Universal Grammar:
- Chomsky introduced the concept of Universal Grammar, which posits that there is a common underlying structure and set of principles shared by all human languages. According to this theory, humans are born with a biological predisposition for acquiring language, and Universal Grammar provides the framework that allows us to do so.