

Grammar & Types of grammar

1. What is Grammar?

+ Traditionally, Grammar could be defined as **a system of rules of word-formation and sentence building**.

+ Grammar is a mental system that allows human beings to form and interpret the words and sentences of their language.

2. Types of Grammar:

2.1 Traditional Grammar:

This is a term often used to summarize the range of attitudes and methods found in the period of grammatical study before the advent of linguistic science. It is **over 2,000 years old** and includes the work of classical Greek and Roman grammarians.

2.2 Theoretical Grammar:

This is an approach that goes **beyond the study of individual languages**.

2.3 Pedagogical Grammar/Teaching Grammar:

This is often in the form of a book, specifically designed for **teaching a foreign language**, or for developing an awareness of the mother tongue.

2.4 Reference Grammar:

This is a grammatical description that tries to be as comprehensive as possible so that it can act **as a reference book** for those interested in establishing grammatical facts.

2.5 Prescriptive Grammar:

Prescriptive Grammar **aims to lay down the rules** on how language should be used and **to set up a standard of correct usage**.

2.6 Descriptive Grammar:

Descriptive Grammar **describes the system of grammar** of the language. It explains how it is possible for you to speak and understand, and it tells what you know about the sounds, words, phrases and sentences of your language.

2.7 The Immediate Constituent Grammar- the IC Grammar:

IC Grammar aims **to display sentence structures by using the immediate constituent analysis**.

A construction is divided into its major constituents and the process continues until no further divisions can be made.

*** Phrase Structure rules (see chapter III, phrases part)**

2.8 Transformational Generative Grammar- TG Grammar:

Its main aim was to find out mechanisms, which account for the generation of the variety of sentences of a language out of a few kernel sentences

Transformational operations consist in rearrangement, addition, deletion and combination of linguistic elements.

3. Grammatical units:

Morphemes are used to build ***words***

Words are used to build ***phrases***

Phrases are used to build ***clauses***

Clauses are used to build ***sentences***.

4. Syntactic relations:

The grammatical relations between units in a sentence are called syntactic relations.

The three categories of syntactic relations are:

+ **Subject-Predicate relations**

+ **Coordinate relations**

+ **Subordinate relations**

PRACTICE

State whether each of the following rules is prescriptive and/or descriptive

a/ The single-word form **maybe** is an adverb meaning “perhaps”. The two-word combination **may be** consists of an auxiliary verb followed by the copular verb **be**.

b/ The possessive forms for **everyone** are **his** or **her**. So do not say “Everyone brought their own lunch” but rather “Everyone brought his(or her) own lunch”.

c/ The infinitive form of a verb is always uninflected. It should follow immediately after the infinitive marker **to**. No word should intervene between **to** and its verb. So this sentence: The Fourth Armored Division tried to totally destroy the hideout should really be The Fourth Armored Division tried to destroy the hideout totally.

d/ Present tense verbs with a third-person singular subject take the suffix **-s**; e.g: Fred **understands**.