

# Transformational Generative Grammar

University of Kufa  
College of Arts  
Dept. of English

Final Exam  
2009/2010  
Fourth Year

T.G.G.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sitting  
Time: 3 Hrs.

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*Be sure to use grammatical English.  
It goes without saying that examples are necessary*

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## Q1. Write the number of the sentence and the letter of the blank to

fill in each of the following (10 ms.):

1. <sup>In</sup> Latin, the relationships between sentence elements are expressed by .....(a).....whereas in English expressed by .....(b)....
2. Structural linguists took into consideration that grammatical elements must be analyzed in terms of ..(c).....rather than ....(d)....
3. After the publication of Bloomfield's Language the term 'linguist' became specialized to mean only the person who.....(e).... whereas it had previously been used to designate someone who...(f).....
4. Transformational grammarians are mainly concerned with.....(g)..... rather than .....(h)..... structure.
5. An imperative transformation is a clear example of the process of.....(i)..... while <sup>an</sup> Adverb movement is that of .....(j).....

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## Q2. Discuss briefly:

1. Why don't the following sentences mean the same (4 ms.):

- ~~Sara is at home.~~

- Is Sara at home?

2. Do the transformations in 1a and 1b below differ? Why? (6 ms.)

1. Sara met her friend at home .

- 1a. Did Sara <sup>meet</sup> ~~met~~ her friend at home.?

- 1b. At home Sara met her friend.

**Q3. Draw the T-diagrams for TWO of the following sentences**

**indicating the possible transformations they underwent (10 ms.).**

1. Tell me the truth.
  2. I did not read the break news
  3. Are you going to the market?
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**Q4. Using the required T. G. rules, explain why the following**

**sentences are ungrammatical: (choose *FIVE* only) (10 ms.).**

1. \*The apple sneezed loudly.
  2. \*A cows went to the farm.
  3. \*Mercy Dropped to the floor .
  4. \*The horse prayed for an hour .
  5. \*My friend elapsed.
  6. \*I read any new magazines.
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**Q5. Answer either A. or B. (10 ms.).**

A. To make sentence analysis explicit, transformational grammarians suggest different devices. Mention such devices and show the way they work with examples (10 ms.).

B. Compare traditional, structural , and transformational grammars according to

1. The concept of rules
  2. Autonomy
  3. Priority of speech and writing
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**ALL THE BEST ALWAYS**

**Instructors**

**Lect. Dr. Sihaam M. H. al-Kawwaz**

**Asst. Prof. Dr. A. K. Reishaan**

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**Q1. Write the number of the sentence and the letter of the blank to fill in each of the following (10 ms.):**

1. The semantic component operates on the p-terminal string after entries from ...(a).....have been added and gives the sentence ....(b).
  2. A transformation may involve any of four processes .....(c)....., .....(d)....., ...(e)....., and ...(f).....
  3. According to T.G. grammarians ,grammar is organized into three components .....(g).....
  4. Transformations that involve no change in meaning are.....and .....
  5. The word 'rule' has been used differently according to different approaches. For a traditionalist, it is ....(i).....whereas for transformationalist it is.....(j).....
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**Q2. Transform the following deep structures into the surface structures indicating the possible transformational processes that each one could undergo by using transformational rules:**

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1. Q not she arrived on time .
  2. Q he can do NP-WH.
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**Q3. Discontent with describing unlimited corpus of sentences grew into a new approach to the study of language where the focus of attention changed. Discuss.**

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**Q4. The auxiliary in sentence (1) below has been expanded into that in (2). Follow this expansion only by using P- structure rules and by drawing the T-diagram of (2):**

(1) John watches T.V. everyday.

(2) John could have been watching T. V. for a long time.

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**Q5. Write the transformational rules and draw the T-diagram of the following sentence just to show the possible transformations it has undergone:**

1. Didn't John come early yesterday?

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*Answer any FIVE questions.*

**Q1. Fill in the following blanks (10 ms.):**

1. T. G. grammarians claim that tense refers to .....not to .....
2. Symbols that can not be further rewritten by phrase structure rules are called ..... and sequence of such symbols are .....
3. An intermediate structure is a structure that .....
4. for T. G. G., the syntactic component contains ..... and ..... that provide ..... of the sentence .
5. The phrase structure rules can ..... sentences whereas transformational rules are used to .....
6. Transformations that involve no change in meaning are.....

**Q2. How do T. G. grammarians classify English verbs according to the concept of transitivity? (Give examples when necessary).**

**Q3. Transformational Grammar involves the application of certain transformations, individually or together. What are these processes? Explain with examples.**

**Q4. Transformational grammarians develop new concepts in the analysis of sentences such as deep structure, surface structure, competence, and performance. With examples explain these notions.**

**Q5. Do as required:**

1. Give me this book. (*Give the deep structure of the sentence*)
  2. Paul would have been climbing the wall in the garden. (*Give the formula and draw the tree diagram*)
  3. Not they present be our relatives. (*Transfer into the surface structure and draw the tree diagram*).
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**Q6. Discontent with describing unlimited corpus of sentences grew into a new approach to the study of language where the focus of attention changed. Discuss.**

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**Q7. Q4. The auxiliary in sentence (1) below has been expand into that in (2). Follow this expansion only by using P- structure rules and by drawing the T-diagram of sentence (2) below:**

- (1) John watched a football match yesterday.
  - (2) John could have been watching a football match for a long time.
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