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SYNTAX

→ Syntax is the study of sentence building, of the ways in which the words are arranged together in order to make larger units.

→ derived from Greek word meaning 'ordering together', systematic arrangement or putting together

→ Syntax is the grammar of sentences or science of sentence construction.

→ The chief concern of syntax is sentence which is the maximum unit of grammatical analysis and the minimal syntactical level is the morpheme.

→ Sentence may be analysed segmentally into phonological units called phonemes and syllables, into morphological units called morphemes and words, and into syntactical units called phrases and clauses.

Syntactic Process

1) Discontinuous Constituents: A common phenomenon in English is the occurence of discontinuous constituents. Structural linguists encountered the difficulty of ÷ not possible to cut into neat segments certain consequences. as the elements that belong together are separated by some other elements. There is thus a discontinuity in sentence. eg) He pulled the thief down

2) Recursion: Recursion means re-occurence. It is the property of Phrase Structure Rules. Through this process the same rules may be re-applied indefinitely many a times within a single derivation. This enables us to add any constituent (eg. adjective) repeatedly.
The old man, the little old man, the clever little old man.

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3) Conjoining / Co-ordination / Conjunction: In this process, certain parts of two or more sentences are similar in structure. The co-ordinators join the sentences. There is no limit to the number of clauses that can be coordinated in a single construction

eg Neelam played badminton and Puja played tennis and Sheel went fishing

4) Embedding: One sentence is included within the other. It generally occurs where the subordinate clause is embedded in the main clause.

The tiger, that killed three men, worried the people.

→ Deep and Surface Structure

According to Noam Chomsky, the deep structure of a sentence is the abstract underlying form which determines the meaning of the sentence, it is present in the mind and not represented (necessarily) in the physical signal.

The surface structure of sentence is the actual organization of the physical signal into phrases (words, particles, inflections, arrangements).

→ Immediate Constituent Analysis

The term was introduced by Bloomfield in 1939

IC Analysis is one of the strong methods to analyse a sentence linguistically. It aims to find out the ultimate constituents of a sentence and their relationship with one another.

The constituents are nothing but morphemes or group of morphemes

The morphemes are the ultimate constituents of a sentence at the syntactical level

→ Labelling and Bracketing.
Bracketing is a way of showing what goes with what; in what logical (as opposed to sequential) order the elements of a linguistic structure are combined.
But simple bracketings or tree-diagrams do not show the nature and functions of the constituents. This inadequacy of the model was introduced by introducing the notion of labelling. Labelled bracketing and trees with labelled nodes gave us insight into the syntactic function of the ultimate and immediate constituents of sentences. eg→ Eugene Nida, Ruelon Wells, Zellig Harris.

→ Noam Chomsky took a step ahead and built a system called Phase Structure Grammar.
He presented three models of grammar into his revolutionizing book Syntactic Structures (i) finite state Grammar
(ii) Phase Structure Grammar
(iii) Transformational Grammar.

Phase Structure Grammar or PSG.

→ It considers sentence as linear sequence of events.
→ The three best known are
Scale and Category Grammar — Michael Halliday of London Univ
Tagmemics: Kenneth Pike of Michigan.
Stratificational Grammar — Sidney Lamb of Yale.
(MIB Vaarshney) (Limitations)
1) Can't account for all syntactic structures, can't disambiguate all the ambiguities
2) can't explicate all grammatical relations, can't account for discontinuous constituents
3) can't permute, delete or adjunct (MIB)