

STRUCTURALISM: ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF THE ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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Abstract

This research explores structuralism and its practical application to the teaching and learning of the English grammar. It meticulously examines the fundamental principles and applications of structural grammar in understanding language structure and syntax. The research begins with an overview of the historical development of structural grammar, tracing its roots to the structuralist movement and the works of linguists such as Leonard Bloomfield, Zellig Harris, and Noam Chomsky. By examining the evolution of structural grammar, the study highlights its tenets, contributions to the field of linguistics and its influence on subsequent linguistic frameworks. Furthermore, this research scrutinizes both the strengths and weaknesses of structural grammar, offering a balanced appraisal of its efficacy. The study also explores the practical applications of structural grammar, particularly in language teaching methodologies, where it serves as a foundation for teaching grammar and sentence construction. The study provides examples and illustrations to illustrate key concepts and principles of structural grammar. Through this investigation, the study aims to deepen our understanding of the structural approach to grammar and its significance in linguistic analysis. The findings reveal the robustness of structural grammar in providing systematic frameworks for analyzing language structure, while also acknowledging its limitations in capturing the nuances of language use and variation. Despite these challenges, structural grammar remains a cornerstone in linguistic analysis, providing invaluable insights into the underlying structures of language.

Keywords: linguistics, structuralism, tenets.

Introduction

The criticism against traditional grammar encouraged scholars to do more research on the English language. The research produced a new perspective on the organization of languages, the “structural description,” or “structuralism.” Traditional and Structural Grammar are both noble and noteworthy approaches to the study of grammar, they contributed immensely in their individual right to how users of language hitherto English, view, use, and understand (English) language. However, since both grammars were propounded at different times in history; it is natural that there are a number of cardinal differences present between them. These differences include:

- i. **Prescriptive as opposed to Descriptive:** One of the pronouncing feature common to traditional grammar literatures is the influx of rules modeled around a perceived standard way of language use. This model of language use was born out of the fact that the proponents of this grammar swallowed the views of early philosophers who relied heavily on logical thinking of things, including language. As a result, they adumbrated a foggy number of rules which formed the tenets of traditional grammar. The idea of ruleprescription by this set of grammarians led to a rebellion. The philologists who dared to confront the grammar status-quo did so by pointing out the irrationality of subjecting language use on an hypothetical and sometimes unfounded model. Ferdinand de' Saussure, along with his disciples in the Europe and America formed a force against the traditionalist by coming up with a novel approach to language study. Thus the birth of language descriptivism. In light of this, the structural grammarians altered the overbearing trend of grammatical dos and don'ts, to establish a fresh view that investigates the actual usage of language and describes it objectively. For instance, structural grammar overruled the impractical cases imposed by traditional grammar for a natural one. Thus, instead of such inflectional case (complexities) as using nominative, accusative, vocative, genitive and dative, analytical constructions is adopted, save for the pronoun which retained its morphological case (i.e., nominative, 'he/she/it', oblique, 'me', 'him', 'her', genitive, 'my/mine', 'his/hers/its'). Therefore, structural grammar favours the description of language use, unlike traditional grammar that imposes prescribed rules.
- ii. **Written as opposed to Spoken:** Another fundamental difference between the traditional grammar and structural grammar is the dissension on what should be the primary focus of language study. The traditional grammar favours written language over spoken. From this, we understand where the movement of prescription originates since the prescribed rules of grammar were based on classical literatures and authors deemed impeccable. They went ahead with the belief that spoken language was too arbitrary, and as such, should not be adopted as a model for ascertaining a grammaticallanguage use. Converse to this, structural grammar emphasizes the need to focus language study on spoken, rather than written samples. This because it made more sense to analyse actual verbal samples of language to understand the entails of how language works among certain people. To the structuralist, imposing the language use of a select few on a larger group is impractical, and non-objective. This dichotomy therefore, is inherent in the traditional view that a word is primary in language study, as against the structural view that a phoneme is the primary unit of language study.
- iii. **The Latin-way as opposed to the Highway:** Among the primary pitfalls of traditional grammar lies its over reliance and resemblance to the Latin grammar. It is no secret that the pioneering traditionalist openly asserts to an almost verbatim lifting of the Latin grammar rules to the English grammar.

This, we can say, is hinged on their faulty belief that Latin provides a universal framework wherein all languages fit. This view by traditional grammar is vehemently negated by the structural grammar. The structuralist believes that it is irrational to assume that a certain language can function as a model to study other languages. This is because structural grammar preaches that language use differs between language communities, and that imposing the framework of one language on another is merely superficial. The structural grammar further asserts the need to carefully and objectively study individual languages to describe and understand the obtainable reality in their structure and usage. This is a huge departure from the Latin-based traditional grammar rules.

- iv. **Traditional Sentence Analysis as opposed to Immediate Constituent Sentence analysis:** According to the traditional grammar, the essence of analyzing sentences is to determine the word class of individual words, and the function the sentence performs, therefore, at the level of sentence analysis, traditional grammar is concerned with how different parts of speech come together to form a sentence that performs certain functions. For instance;
- a. Joy ate rice (declarative function)
 - b. Did joy eat rice? (interrogative function)
 - c. Bring me my shoes (imperative function).

Converse to this, the structural grammarians believed that language is a system of structure, such that no system can exist in isolation of another. Hence, they come up with the concept of immediate constituent. As Syal and Jindal submits, "the principle involved was that of cutting a sentence into two, further cutting these two parts into another two, and continuing the segmentation till the smallest unit, the morpheme, was arrived at" (2016, p. 107).

Structural grammar is a linguistic framework that analyzes language based on its underlying structure and the relationships between its constituent parts. It focuses on the syntax or the arrangement of words and phrases as a means of understanding how meaning is conveyed. By examining the structural aspects of language, structural grammar provides valuable insights into how meaning is conveyed and how sentences are constructed. In structural grammar, the emphasis is placed on syntax, which refers to the study of sentence structure. Rather than focusing solely on the classification of words or prescribing rules for "correct" language usage, this approach seeks to uncover the principles and patterns that shape the organization of words into meaningful units. By investigating the syntactic structure of sentences, linguists can better understand how words interact and contribute to the overall meaning of a sentence. This in-depth analysis not only elucidates the hierarchical relationships between linguistic elements but also unveils the intricate mechanisms through which language conveys nuanced meanings and semantic nuances. Through syntactic examination, linguists uncover

the underlying principles governing language organization, shedding light on the complexities of human communication and cognition.

Overview of the Historical Development of Structural Grammar

The historical development of structural grammar can be traced back to the structuralist movement in linguistics, which emerged in the early 20th century. Structuralism viewed language as a system of signs and emphasized the analysis of language structure and the relationships among its elements. Linguists such as Ferdinand de Saussure laid the groundwork for structural grammar by introducing concepts like the signifier and the signified, highlighting the structural nature of language. Ferdinand de Saussure distinguished between “langue” (linguistic knowledge), and “parole,” (utterances, or the spoken language), he claimed that “the study of such (language) structure was largely independent on the study of the meaning of words,” due to the fact that “the actual knowledge of language had more to do with the knowledge of arrangements and contrasting patterns of sound than with meaning attached to words” (Haussamen 2000, P. 28).

One influential figure in the development of structural grammar is Leonard Bloomfield. Bloomfield, wrote his seminal book, *Language*, in 1933, which “set out a complex classification” of language structures: “sound endings, word combinations, and types of phrases and sentences” (Haussamen 2000). Bloomfield’s structural model of language was a considerable departure from the traditional grammar that was based on the notion that the Latin grammar was “universally applicable to all languages” (Williams 2005, P. 97). Fries built upon Bloomfield’s work in 1952 with *The Structure of English*, in which he stated that “there is no necessary conflict between scientific linguistics and traditional grammar,” as both of them are “complementary endeavours, one theoretical and the other practical.” The problem, as Fries saw it, was that “the stylistic recommendations found in many traditional books are arbitrary and often contradicted by actual usage” (Fries 1952).

Another important contribution to structural grammar came from Zellig Harris, who was influenced by Bloomfield’s ideas. Harris introduced the concept of distributional analysis, which focuses on analyzing the distribution patterns of words and their grammatical functions within sentences. He argued that understanding the distributional patterns can reveal the underlying syntactic structure of a language. In his work “Methods in Structural Linguistics”, Harris emphasizes the significance of analyzing language as a system of interrelated elements. He states, “The analysis of a language consists in the assignment of a phonetic representation, a structural description, and a semantic interpretation to each sentence of the language” (Harris 1951). Harris’s assertion underscores the holistic approach of structural grammar, which aims to examine language at multiple levels of analysis.

Noam Chomsky, a prominent linguist in the mid-20th century, further developed and revolutionized structural grammar with his influential work. Chomsky proposed a transformational-generative approach to grammar, which went beyond surface-level analysis and aimed to uncover the deep underlying structures of sentences. His theory introduced the idea of transformational processes that generate different sentence structures from a basic underlying structure. Chomsky's framework emphasized the innate language capacity of humans and the universality of grammatical principles.

Chomsky's work, particularly his book "Syntactic Structures" published in 1957, had a profound impact on the field of linguistics. It sparked a shift towards generative grammar, which aimed to generate grammatical sentences and account for the infinite creativity of human language. Generative grammar built upon the principles of structural grammar, incorporating transformational processes and phrase structure rules to describe the underlying structures of sentences.

The historical development of structural grammar, rooted in the structuralist movement and the contributions of linguists like Bloomfield, Harris, and Chomsky, paved the way for a deeper understanding of language structure and syntax. The influence of structural grammar can be seen in the subsequent development of generative grammar and its applications in various branches of linguistics, such as language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and computational linguistics.

The introduction of structural grammar revolutionized the study of language by shifting the focus from traditional grammar rules to the analysis of sentence structure and its relationship to meaning. For structural linguists, the study of language started off as an observational exercise on the way language is used. This led to the description of the observed behaviour of the language in the process of its usage. Syal and Jindal (2016, P. 36) mentions some of the major tenets of structural grammar as:

1. ***Spoken language is primary and writing is secondary:*** One of the key distinctive tenets of the structural grammar is its interest in speaking over writing. This is so because, for the structural grammarian, a person learns to speak earlier before he or she learns to write. At such, emphasis is placed on the description of spoken language over the actual orthography of it. In doing this, they believed that the old interest in how a subject is bound by a particular verb type should come secondary to how a word sounds in the first place. This led to Bloomfield's creation of the term phoneme -which means the minimal distinctive sound of a language and morpheme -the smallest unit of a word (Syal and Jindal 2016).
2. ***The Synchronic study of language over the diachronic:*** Structural grammar moved its interest from the study of the origin/history of language (i.e. diachronic) and all of its complexities to the study of its non-historical (i.e. synchronic) reality

(Syal and Jindal 2016). This is because the historical origin of a language plays little or no significant role in the investigation of how a language is at a present moment. The structural grammarian therefore moved their focus to examining the immediate constituent structure of produced sentences and how it helps in establishing an empirical view of meaning.

3. **Language is a system of structures:** This is the most integral of the structural grammar tenets. It is rooted in the ideology of the structural grammarian that each language has a system of its own so that “each language is regarded by the structuralist as a system of relation” (Syal and Jindal 2016). What this means is that for every language, there is a system which has a compact web-like relationship, when one is pulled out in isolation, it makes no sense until rejoined to the system wherein it functions as intended. The structuralist believes that language is not just a random collection of words but a systematic and structured entity. As linguist Zellig Harris notes in his book "Methods in Structural Linguistics", "Language is a system of relations among linguistic items" (Harris, 1951 p. 10). This assumption highlights the systematic nature of language and the importance of understanding the relationships between linguistic elements. Structural grammar aims to uncover these relations and analyze how they contribute to meaning and communication.

In summary, the basic assumptions of structural grammar are rooted in the notion of language as a system of structures (Harris 1951). This approach focuses on the importance of syntax, analysis of sentence structure and patterns. It assumes the existence of constituents and their hierarchical organization within sentences. Additionally, transformations are considered crucial for generating and interpreting sentences (Chomsky 1957). These assumptions, established by renowned linguists such as Chomsky and Harris, provide a framework for analyzing and understanding how language is structured, how sentences are formed, and how meaning is conveyed within a linguistic system.

Contributions of Structural Grammar to Linguistics Study

Structural grammar has made significant contributions to the field of linguistics. Here are some notable contributions of structural grammar:

1. Constituency Analysis

Structural grammar identifies constituents, which are grammatical units that function as a single entity within a sentence. Constituency analysis involves identifying phrases or groups of words that act as cohesive units and can be moved or replaced as a whole. For example, in the sentence “John saw a red car”, the noun phrase “a red car” is a constituent that can be replaced by another noun phrase without affecting the grammaticality of the sentence.

Structural grammar assumes that sentences are composed of constituents. Constituents are the basic building blocks of sentences and can be defined as groups of words that function together as a single unit. These constituents include nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and phrases, among others. These

constituents can be identified, analyzed and hierarchically organized within a sentence; their hierarchical organization plays a significant role in understanding sentence structure. Harris explains this assumption by stating that, "The analysis of a sentence into constituent elements is an analysis into hierarchical structures" (Harris 1951). This assumption emphasizes the importance of identifying and analyzing the hierarchical relationships between constituents. By identifying constituents and their relationships, structural grammar aims to uncover the underlying structure of sentences and how meaning is constructed. Structural grammar therefore reveals the hierarchical relationships among these units and provides insights into the overall structure and meaning of the sentence by breaking down a sentence into its constituent elements. For example

"The cat is sitting on the mat."

Constituents in this sentence can be identified as follows:

Noun Phrase (NP): "The cat"

Verb Phrase (VP): "is sitting"

Prepositional Phrase (PP): "on the mat"

By analyzing the constituents and their hierarchical relationships, structural grammar reveals the underlying structure of the sentence.

2. Phrase Structure Rule

Phrase structure rule is an essential feature of structural grammar, the rules are used in linguistics to describe the hierarchical structure of sentences and phrases in a language. Phrase structure rule describes how constituents combine to form larger structures within a sentence. They outline the permissible arrangements and combinations of words, phrases, and clauses. By applying phrase structure rules, linguists can generate grammatically valid sentences and gain a deeper understanding of how the constituents interact and contribute to sentence meaning (Williams 2005). For example, the sentence "The cat chased the mouse." can be broken down into its constituent phrases and phrase structure rules can be used to demonstrate how it is constructed. The rule indicates that:

$$S \rightarrow NP + VP$$

Sentence (S): A sentence consists of a noun phrase (NP) followed by a verb phrase (VP).

Noun Phrase (NP): A noun phrase can consist of a determiner (Det) followed by a noun (N).

Verb Phrase (VP): A verb phrase can consist of a verb (V) followed by a noun phrase (NP).

That is:

Sentence(S):

$$S \rightarrow NP + VP$$

Noun Phrase (NP):

$$\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{N}$$

Verb Phrase (VP):

$$\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{V} + \text{NP}$$

In applying this rule to the sentence “The cat chased the mouse”, we will have:

$$\text{S} \rightarrow \text{NP} + \text{VP}$$

$$\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{N}$$

$$\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{“The” (Det)} + \text{“cat” (N)}$$

$$\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{V} + \text{NP}$$

$$\text{VP} \rightarrow \text{“chased” (V)} + \text{“the mouse” (NP)}$$

$$\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{N}$$

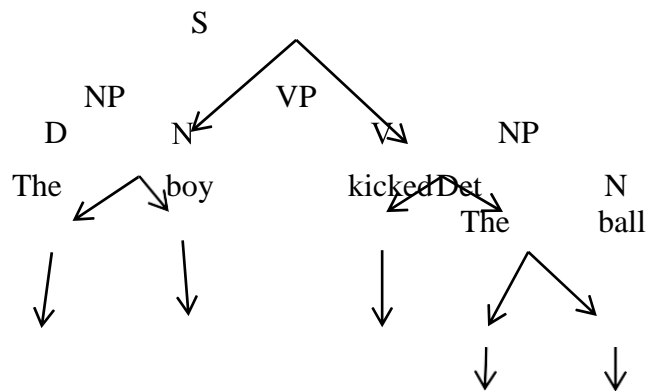
$$\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{“the” (Det)} + \text{“mouse” (N)}$$

The above analysis helps us to understand how phrase structure rules are used to generate grammatically valid sentences based on the syntactic structure.

3. Tree Diagrams

Tree diagrams are graphical representations commonly used in structural grammar to visualize the hierarchical structure of sentences. These diagrams illustrate how constituents are organized and nested within larger structures. Each constituent is represented as a branch or node on the tree, and the relationships between constituents are depicted through the branching patterns. Tree diagrams provide a visual tool for analyzing and representing the syntactic structure of sentences in a clear and systematic manner. For example “The boy kicked the ball”

The above sentence can be represented hierarchically on a tree diagram as



In this tree diagram, the constituents (NP, VP) and their relationships are represented through branching patterns, providing a visual representation of the sentence structure. This hierarchical structure captures the relationship between words and phrases within the sentence, demonstrating how they combine to form larger units. Tree diagrams have become a standard tool in linguistic analysis, facilitating a visual understanding of the organization of linguistic elements within a sentence. By mapping out the syntactic structure of a sentence, linguists can identify patterns, transformations, and dependencies that contribute to the overall meaning.

4. Syntactic Structures and Sentence Patterns

Syntax provides the framework for analyzing how words combine to form meaningful and grammatically correct sentences. Structural grammar employs a set of syntactic categories to classify words and phrases based on their grammatical functions. Common syntactic categories include nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions. The arrangement and organization of words, phrases, and clauses within a sentence play a crucial role in forming grammatically correct and meaningful sentences. Noam Chomsky in his influential work "Syntactic Structures", states that "The study of syntax is primarily concerned with the study of sentence structure and sentence formation" (Chomsky 1957). By categorizing words into these groups, structural grammar provides a systematic way to understand and analyze their roles within sentences. For example,

"The happy child is playing"

In the above sentence, we can identify different syntactic categories. "The" is an article, "happy" is an adjective, "child" is a noun, "is playing" is a verb phrase and "outside" is an adverb. Identifying these categories allow us to analyze how different parts of speech contribute to the overall sentence structure. Structural grammar therefore aims to uncover the underlying patterns and rules that govern sentence formation and the hierarchical relationships between linguistic elements by examining the syntactic arrangement of linguistic elements.

5. Dependency relations

Structural grammar pays particular attention to the dependency relations between words and phrases within a sentence. A dependency relation is a grammatical relation between two linguistic units, where one unit depends on or modifies another. For example, in the sentence “She bought a new dress”, the word “she” is the subject and “bought a new dress” is the predicate. The verb “bought” depends on the subject “She”. We can also identify the direct object “a new dress”, which depends on the verb “bought”. Recognizing these dependency relations helps us understand how the sentence components function together.

6. Influence on Generative Grammar

Structural grammar played a pivotal role in the development of generative grammar. It laid the foundation for the transformational-generative approach proposed by Noam Chomsky. Structural grammar, particularly the transformational-generative grammar had a profound influence on the field of linguistics, specifically in the development of generative grammar. Generative grammar builds upon the insights and principles of structural grammar, incorporating more sophisticated models and theories for the analysis of language structure and syntax. Generative grammar, with its focus on generating grammatically well-formed sentences and accounting for the infinite creativity of human language, has become a dominant framework in linguistics. This framework laid the foundation for subsequent developments in generative linguistics.

7. Influence on Language Teaching

Structural grammar has also had an impact on language teaching methodologies. By providing a systematic analysis of sentence structure, structural grammar has influenced approaches to teaching grammar and sentence construction. It has helped language instructors develop instructional materials and strategies that focus on understanding and applying the rules and patterns of sentence formation. It has also enhanced language learners' understanding of sentence structure, enabling them to apply grammatical rules and construct well-formed sentences.

8. Contribution to Linguistic Research

Structural grammar has contributed significantly to linguistic research, providing insights into language structure, syntax, and language universals. It has shaped our understanding of sentence formation, language acquisition, and cross-linguistic comparisons. The achievements of structural grammar have laid the groundwork for further exploration and advancements in the field of linguistics.

9. Practical Applications in Computational Linguistics

The principles and methodologies of structural grammar have had a significant impact on the field of computational linguistics. The formal representation of sentence structure and the understanding of syntactic patterns have been instrumental in developing computational models and

algorithms for natural language processing tasks, such as parsing, machine translation, and text generation.

10. Explanation of Language Acquisition

Structural grammar also contributes to the understanding of language acquisition. By examining the systematic organization of sentence structure, it provides insights into how children acquire and internalize the grammatical rules of their native language during the language development process.

In summary, the contribution structuralism made to the development of a modern perspective on the English language structure is in the emphasis it placed on “the systematic nature of English,” as in the case of the description of word classes or parts of speech. For the structuralist, this systematic description of the language includes an analysis of the sound system (phonology), then the systematic combination of sounds into meaningful units and words (morphology), and finally, the systematic combination of words into meaningful phrase structures and sentence patterns (syntax) (Kolln and Funk 2006, pp. 6-7). The structuralist called their new grammar Immediate Constituent Analysis (ICA), which indicated their approach to the study of grammar: Dividing a sentence up into immediate constituents. This is much the same as constructing a syntactic tree structure, but the term IC analysis’ is commonly applied only in cases in which we do not botherto identify the type or each constituent with a node label (Trask 1997, p. 109) due to the fact that most “grammar is about sentences -the form of the words and their functions in sentences,” and that “analyzing individual sentences is a major part of grammatical study,” ICA “can provide a great deal of information about language.” (Williams 2005, p. 107).The contributions of structural grammar have significantly shaped the field of linguistics and paved the way for a deeper understanding of the underlying structure of language and its role in communication.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Structural Grammar

Some of the strength of traditional grammar includes:

1. Clear Analysis of Sentence Structure

One of the key strengths of structural grammar is its ability to provide a clear and systematic analysis of sentence structure. By focusing on the arrangement and organization of words, phrases, and clauses, structural grammar allows linguists to uncover the underlying patterns and rules that govern sentence formation. This analysis provides valuable insights into how sentences are constructed and how meaning is conveyed through syntactic structures.

2. Identification of Constituents and Relationships

Structural grammar excels in identifying constituents and analyzing their relationships within a sentence. By breaking down a sentence into its constituent elements, such as noun phrases, verb phrases, and prepositional phrases, linguists can gain a deeper understanding of how these units function

and interact. This analysis helps reveal the hierarchical structure of a sentence and how constituents combine to create meaning.

3. Visual Representation with Tree Diagrams

The use of tree diagrams is strength of structural grammar. These visual representations provide a clear and concise way to illustrate the hierarchical structure of sentences. Tree diagrams visually depict the relationships between constituents, making it easier to analyze and understand the syntactic structure. They offer a valuable tool for visual learners and aid in the systematic analysis of sentence structure.

4. Capturing Syntactic Variations

Structural grammar incorporates transformational processes to account for syntactic variations. This strength allows for the generation of different sentence structures from a common underlying structure. Transformations enable the analysis of various syntactic phenomena, such as passive voice, interrogative forms, and negation, providing a comprehensive understanding of the flexibility and range of sentence structures within a language. This achievement has helped uncover the underlying rules and processes that govern sentence transformations and syntactic variation.

5. Generation of Grammatically Valid Sentences

Structural grammar has achieved success in generating grammatically valid sentences based on the rules and patterns identified within a language. By understanding the underlying structures and the combinations of constituents, structural grammar provides guidelines for constructing well-formed sentences. This achievement has practical applications in natural language processing, language teaching, and language generation tasks.

Some weaknesses of structural grammar on the other hand include:

1. Limited Focus on Meaning

One weakness of structural grammar is its limited focus on meaning. While it provides a robust analysis of sentence structure, it may not directly address the semantic aspects of language. Structural grammar primarily examines the arrangement and combination of linguistic elements without delving into the nuances of meaning that arises from semantic relationships. Thus, it may not provide a complete picture of how meaning is conveyed in language.

2. Incomplete Account of Language Usage

Structural grammar may not fully account for the variability and complexities of language usage. Language is dynamic and context-dependent, with variations in usage influenced by factors such as register, dialects, and sociolinguistic factors. Structural grammar, with its focus on sentence structure, may not fully capture the intricacies of these linguistic variations and their impact on meaning and communication.

3. Difficulty with Ambiguity and Multiple Analyses

Structural grammar may face challenges when dealing with ambiguous sentences or multiple possible analyses. Some sentences can have different

interpretations depending on the context or the reader's perspective. Structural grammar may not provide clear guidelines for resolving such ambiguities, leading to multiple possible analyses or a lack of precision in determining the intended meaning.

4. **Limited Scope of Analysis**

Structural grammar primarily focuses on syntax and sentence structure, which may limit its scope of analysis. While it provides valuable insights into sentence-level phenomena, it may not address larger linguistic units such as discourse or text-level structures. Structural grammar may not fully capture how sentences connect and contribute to the overall coherence and cohesion of a discourse or how discourse-level factors influence sentence structure and meaning.

Application of Structural Grammar in Teaching and Learning

The practical application of structural grammar in teaching methodology is significant, as it serves as a foundation for teaching grammar and sentence construction. Here are some key aspects of how structural grammar is applied in practical teaching:

1. **Understanding Sentence Structure:** Structural grammar provides a systematic framework for understanding sentence structure. By analyzing the organization and arrangement of constituents within sentences, teachers can help students grasp the fundamental building blocks of sentences, such as noun phrases, verb phrases, and prepositional phrases. This understanding enables students to recognize and construct grammatically correct sentences.
2. **Identifying Grammatical Patterns:** Structural grammar helps teachers and students identify grammatical patterns that exist within a language. Through the analysis of phrase structure rules, teachers can guide students in recognizing patterns of sentence formation. This includes understanding the order of constituents, agreement between words, and the use of modifiers. By recognizing these patterns, students can construct sentences that conform to the grammatical rules of the language.
3. **Developing Sentence Construction Skills:** With the foundation provided by structural grammar, teachers can guide students in developing their sentence construction skills. Students can learn how to combine different constituents, such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives, to form meaningful and grammatically correct sentences. This includes understanding the roles and functions of different constituents and how they relate to each other within a sentence.
4. **Error Correction:** Structural grammar assists in error correction during language learning. By understanding the grammatical rules and structures, teachers can identify and correct errors in students' sentence construction. They can help students identify and rectify issues such as subject-verb agreement, word order, or the incorrect use of modifiers. Structural

grammar provides a framework for identifying and addressing specific grammatical errors.

5. **Application in Writing:** Structural grammar is essential in teaching writing skills. By understanding sentence structure, students can effectively construct clear and coherent sentences in their written work. They can apply their knowledge of grammatical patterns, sentence formation, and the use of modifiers to produce well-structured paragraphs and essays.
6. **Language Analysis:** Structural grammar facilitates the analysis of authentic language materials, such as texts or conversations. Students can analyze the grammatical structures used in real-world contexts, enabling them to understand how language is used in different situations. This analysis helps students develop their language proficiency and reinforces their understanding of structural grammar principles.
7. **Integration with Communicative Approach:** Structural grammar can be integrated into a communicative approach to language teaching. By combining the teaching of sentence structure with meaningful and communicative activities, students can practice using grammatical structures in real-life contexts. This integration helps students connect the structural aspects of grammar with effective communication.

The practical application of structural grammar in teaching methodology provides a foundation for grammar and sentence construction. It helps students understand sentence structure, identify grammatical patterns, develop sentence construction skills, and apply their knowledge in writing and real-life communication. By incorporating structural grammar into teaching practices, educators can enhance students' understanding of grammar and their ability to construct grammatically correct and meaningful sentences.

Conclusion

Contributions of structural grammar to the field of linguistics cannot be overstated. Structural grammar has played a pivotal role in the development of linguistic theories and methodologies. Through its systematic approach to language analysis, it has provided linguists and language educators with valuable insights into the underlying structures of language. From the establishment of phonology and syntax as distinct fields of study to the development of descriptive frameworks for analyzing language, structural grammar has laid the groundwork for subsequent linguistic theories and methodologies. Despite its strengths, structural grammar is not without its limitations. The rigid adherence to formal patterns and the neglect of meaning and context have been criticized by some linguists. However, the application of structural grammar in teaching and learning has proven to be effective in promoting language proficiency and literacy skills. In comparing traditional and structural grammar, it is evident that while traditional grammar focuses on prescriptive rules and definitions, structural grammar emphasizes descriptive analysis and empirical evidence. This shift in focus has led to a more

scientific approach to language study, grounded in observable patterns and structures. Structural grammar therefore, continues to be a valuable tool for linguistic analysis and language education. Its systematic approach and emphasis on empirical evidence has contributed significantly to our understanding of language structure and its applications in teaching and learning.

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