Contrastive Linguistics

Chapter Three
The Linguistic Components

- **3.3.2 Transformation- Generative Grammar**
- Carl James has concentrated on the three models outlined in Section 3.3 for two reasons:
- **First,** because the greatest **volume of publication** in the field of CA has utilised these three models ; and
- **Secondly,** because they are the **best-known models** in contemporary linguistics.

- **1-** It was elaborated by Chomsky (1957) and in his **Aspect of theory of Syntax** (1965).
- **2-** his foundation is the deep structure and surface structure.
- **3- Syntactic component** of the grammar is **generative** and **semantics component** is **interpretative**.
- **3-** The term 'generative' has been explained by Lyons (1968) as combining two senses;

  (1)- 'projective' or ' predictive' and

  (2)- explicit

  Projective establishes as grammatical not only actual sentences (of a corpus) but also ' potential' sentences.

- **4-** T-GG is a grammar that sets out to specify the notion of and the limits grammatically for the language under its purview.
- **5-** A T-GG is generative in being explicit.

  (it says which sentences are possible in the language by specifying them: ungrammatical sentences are by definition omitted from the grammar)
- **6-** One reason for using T-GG in CA is the same as that for using it in unilingual description - its explicitness.

Other reasons are practically attractive to CA;

First, it has been claimed that deep structures are ' universal' or common to all languages.

Secondly; the transformations applied to deep structures are taken from a **universal stock** (which Chomsky call it formal universal)

7- Some have gone so far , Konig (1970)

'Certain differences between English and German **can only be observed** if a transformational grammar is adopted as theoretical framework for one's statements.'

8- Three transformational are therefore involved in passing from deep structure (DS) to surface structure (SS)

- (1)- Relativisation
- (2)- Whiz- deletion
- (3)- adjective shifting
- Example;

DS I have an apple + The apple is red→
a) I have an apple which is red→
b) I have an apple red→
c) I have a red apple. SS

- (SS): relativisation, (a), whiz-deletion (b) and adjective shifting

- **9-** Further bonus in this approach is that it provides for the two language identical means for explaining in an explicit fashion in the nature of **sentential ambiguities** :

  (*example;* ***Chomsky 's example is The industrious Chinese dominate the economy of S.E. Asia***).

  The subject NP is ambiguous in that it can refer either to **all the Chinese** or just those Chinese who are industrious.

  Another example;

  Mary is a beautiful dancer.

  (-who dances beautifully or - who is a beautiful).

Konig (1971) explanation of the difference between English and German relies on two observations through (clause-final adjective or participles)

In 1963 Fillmore formulated the generalisation that only clause-final adjectives or participles may be pre-posed

and in'1962 Bach proposed that the basic or deep-structure element-order of German sentences ought to be the one having the finite verb in final position:

- 11- Another virtue of approach through T-GG is that the contrastive analyst is receptive to the significance of linguistic phenomena which he would otherwise tend to overlook as trivial.
- The TG grammarian **Ross** has pointed out that in differential comparative constructions there appear elements which we normally expect only in negative or interrogative constructions: *ever,* and the modal *need* in English, *jemals* in German:
- Bill is more polite than you *ever* were.
- Bill was crueller than he *need* have been.
- **Fritz ist heute schon geschickter als es sein Brude *rjernals* war.**

Example; *the deep structures of such comparatives must contain a negative constituent sentence;*

John is taller than Bill derives from something like John is taller than Bill is NOT tall.

- **12-** Final the T-GG approach provides the contrastive analyst with some kind of **measure of degree** of difference between compared constructions in L1 and L2.
- Carl James has suggested that deep structure is common to all languages, and that languages differ most in their surface structure.
- As Di Pietro (1971) puts

  *'…. The differences between languages must come at various levels of **intermediate** structure') that means deep structure is common to all languages, and that languages, and that languages differ most in their surface structures. The degrees to which they differ is determined by where, in their derivational histories, the compared construction begin to diverge.'*
- The difference therefore, between the Structuralist and this approach in CA is that instead of looking for surface- structural correspondences, we look for correspondence between transformational rules (Nickle and Wagner, 1968)

- **13-** The contrastive analyst is more interested in how rules differ in their applicability to congruent deep structures (or intermediate structures) of two languages.
- There are several types of difference in rule application:

- **(Five Advantages of the T-GG)**

(1)- One of the languages applies the rule, whereas the other either does not, or does so less generally.

Example; A rule which is more restricted in scope in French than in English is the adjective proposing rule: it is normally the case that English adjectives precede their nouns, but normally the case in French that they follow.

- (2)- In L1, the rule is obligatory, but in L2 it is optional (or vice versa). By 'optional' we mean that the grammar generates equally correct sentences irrespective of whether the particular rule is applied.
- **For example,** the rule of Object Relative Pronoun insertion is optional in English but obligatory in German: compare:
- **That was the film (which) I saw.**
- **Das war der Film, DEN ich gesehen babe .**

- (3) Transformations are **'extrinsically ordered',** or apply in acertain fixed order (Chomsky, 1965: 133).
- In English Reflexivisation is a rule that can only be applied after pronominalisation:

  (i), then ii)are the steps leading to iii) :
- i) **John shaves John**. (the two' Johns' being coreferential)
- ii) **John shaves him.** (= John)
- iii) **John shaves himself.**

(4)- Some transformations are less specialised, or have a broader scope, than others. It may therefore happen that two transformations which are recognised as the same', although they operate in two different languages, are different in their scope.

*(**for example;** The copula-insertion rules of English and Russian are a case in point.)*

- **Compare the following:**
- moj brat student **(zero copula)**
- (My brother **[is a]** student)
- moj brat **byl**/**budit** studentom
- (My brother was/will be a student)

In Russian byt' introduction is subject to more stringent conditions: ***byt'*** will be introduced only if the auxiliary is non-present in tense (i. e. is past or future tense).

- **(5)-** A fifth advantage of the T-GG approach is that it yields significant '**generalisations**': this happens when two different areas of the grammar call for the application of one and the same transformational rule.
- Konig (1972: 57) exemplifies this. He points out that English and German relative clauses containing adverbs or prepositional objects exhibit certain differences:
- in English the preposition can either precede the relative pronoun or appear at the end of the relative clause, as in i) and ii) respectively:
- i) The problem **about** . .. which John thought...
- ii) The problem which John thought **about**...
- **whereas in German the second option is not allowed.**
- iii) Das Problem, tiber das Hans dachte .
- iv) • Das Problem, das Hans dachte tiber .

- **(6)-** Not only do some transformational rules strictly precede or follow others, as we have seen: some rules imply others. This is something which a CA must take into account.
- Konig shows how the rule which is known as **Raising** generates structures which can undergo **passivisation** in English.
- i) **They believe that John is a clever boy.**
- ii) **They believe John to be a clever boy.**
- iii) **John is believed (by them) to be a clever boy.**

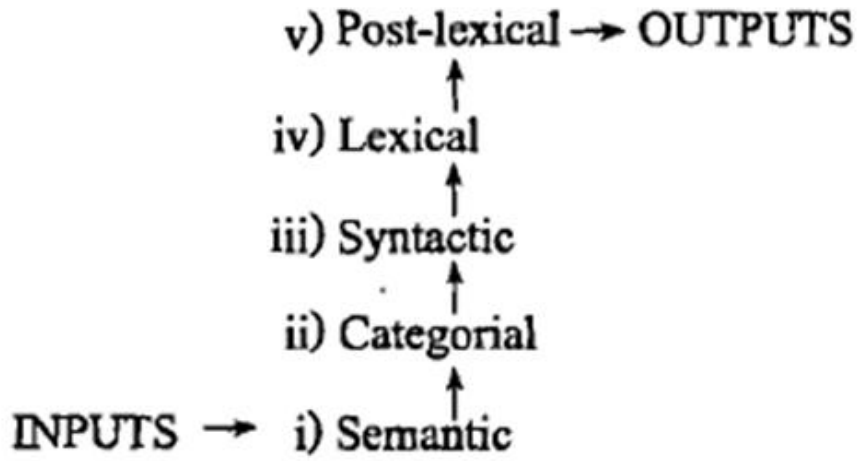
3.3.3 Contrastive Generative Grammar

- Krzeszowski attempts to find a more satisfactory procedure than the one which the CA involves **two phases**, where the first being that of **independent description**, the second that of **comparison** but this approach is not wholly satisfactory. So A more satisfactory procedure would be one whereby L1 and L2 structures were generated from some **common base**, and were compared and contrasted during this process of generation - a single phase CA in fact.

- According to Krzeszowski, the classical CA is
- **(1)- horizontal CA** (where the only way in which the CA can be effected is through cross-referencing or "movement from L1 to L2 and vice-versa")
- **(2)- vertical CA,** which characterized in two points;

(a) - It is not based on the confluence of two monolingual grammars, as classical CA is, but is a single bilingual grammar.

(b)- CGG proceeds in its derivations from **universal semantic** inputs to language-specific surface structure outputs in **five stages**:



Stage 1; (input) of "a universal semantic or conceptual input consisting of configurations of elementary primitive notions such as **Agent**, **Patient**, and **all sorts** of specifications of location in **time** and **space**".

Stage 2; some categories may be universal, others shared by language types, some unique.

Stage 3; arranging the categories into permissible orders in actual sentences.

Stage 4; In accordance with language-specific possibilities lexical entries from the dictionary are inserted into the syntactic frames.

Stage 5: Here, post-lexical or 'cosmetic' transformations are applied. providing outputs with inflections and word boundary markers.

It seems that Krzeszowski has taken a conceptual double-leap. His original formulation of the term

‘ horizontal ’ in the context of CA took its name from the procedure whereby the contrastivist moved to and fro' between L1 and L2 descriptions.

But now the horizontal movement is ascribed not to the- **analyst**, but to the **learner**.

This kind of doublethink, however isolated, must inevitably undermine one's confidence in Krzeszowski' s whole CGG.

Learners initially reduce the L2 to **its bare communicative essentials.** therefore. No matter what language it is, the bare essentials are the same.

Several applied linguists (Ferguson, Corder, Widdowson) have recently drawn attention to the fact that learners tend to **produce simple versions** of the language they are learning.

We have shown that , according to Krzeszowski, the alternatives of CA manifested in CGG and characterized based on the confluence of two **monolingual** grammar, as classical CA is, but is a single **bilingual** grammar.

- Krzeszowski tries to show the function of a CA is precisely this; to render an account of the intuitions of an **‘ ideal’** bilingual about the relatedness of his two languages.
- **Carl James** thinks about this claim a psycholinguistic model of a bilingual and model of CA and the same thing is very dubious.
- Krzeszowski means by ideal bilingual by a ***balanced bilingual***, that is, one whose command of two languages is **equal**, then there would seem to be little of relevance in such an individual's intuitions about LI and L2 relatedness.
- *(what about the dominance of one of these languages over the other , in other words , to have solved the very problem that CA addresses itself to.)*

- Also Krzeszowski talks about two processes of his CGG in CA which are ; **Simplification** and **re-elaboration**, the first one means (Learners initially reduce the L2 to its bare communicative essentials. therefore. No matter what language it is, the bare essentials are the same.) and the other process is process of **re-elaboration**: the learners gradually cut out reduction and add to their interlanguage the specific features of the particular L2.

- Krzeszowski claims that, his CGG can account for both of these processes of simplification and re-elaboration.
- Examples about simplification;
- *Me Tarzan, you Jane (no copula) !*
- *Me see thief (no article; no tense; no case system for pronouns) .*

3.3.4 Case Grammar

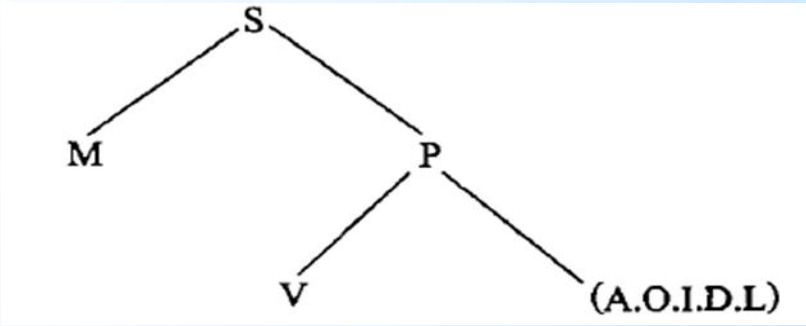
Birnbaum (1970) proposed **two** sorts of deep structure: on the one hand there is what Birnbaum calls **'infrastructure'** which underlies the surface structure of a particular language and may be invoked to explain instances of ambiguity and synonymy between pairs of sentences in that language; the other deep structure is called **'profound structure',** and is assumed to be universal. **The former**, being language-specific, is more complex and diverse than **the latter**, which is simple in its basicness. The putative existence of the latter is the" universal base hypothesis", defined by Peters and Ritchie (1969: 150) thus:

"There is a version of the theory of transfonnational grammar in which there is a fixed base grammar B which will serve as the base component of a grammar of any natural language. "

- **Di Pietro** (1971: 3) says:
- "the assumption that there are universal constraints on language is basic to the implementation of CA", since, without it, CA can be no more than a listing of language idiosyncrasies and a random itemization at best.

- The model, which is known as Case Grammar is developed by Fillmore in his theory of a universal semantic base of languages.

- The' Case Grammar' approach proposes that the profound' deep structure of any sentence in any language must be of the form:



That is, a sentence **(S)** consists of a proposition **(P)** and its modality **(M)**. **P** is the' content' of the sentence, while M embraces such features as negation, tense, mood, aspect and speaker's attitude.(**Agentive, Objective**, **Instrumental, Dative**, **Locative**.)

i) The door opened. (- O)

ii) John opened the door. (- O + A)

iii) The wind opened the door. (- O + I)

iv) John opened the door with a chisel. (- O + I + A)

- **Case Grammar would appear to be a model ideally suited to exploitation for purposes of CA.**

First, its finite universal array of categories provides us with a common point of departure for any pair of sentences we wish to compare structurally; indeed the fact that a pair of structures of L1 and L2, in spite of their superficial differences, can be traced back to a common single case configuration is a justification for comparing them in the first place - this case-structure identity is the *tertium comparationis,*

Secondly, since surface structures are derived from deep case configurations by transformations, all the advantages of the transformational approach especially the feasibility of tracing sentential derivations through 'intermediate structure apply equally well, And

Thirdly, the machinery of deep case configurations is so simple and uninvolved that it lends itself to use by the applied linguist wishing to avoid involvement in the uncertainties of what syntactic deep structure to posit for any given surface structure, as is the case with the syntactic deep structures of TG grammar.

Thank you