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### The Generative transformational approach

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#### Abstract

If the two terms within the theory (generative and transformative) are so closely related that they are not separated unless the need requires, but still each of them can be defined as follows: Generative rules: are the rules that generate acceptable sentences in the language, while they do not generate sentences that are unacceptable in the language; Because language, in Chomsky's words, consists of "(a finite or infinite set of sentences), every sentence of finite length and composed of a finite set of elements, and all natural languages in their spoken or written form conform to this definition, because every natural language consists of a finite set of sounds (or a finite set of written symbols), yet it produces or generates endless sentences. Generative, then, is relative to the production of sentences in a large and infinite amount, noting that it is linked in its basis to the mental aspect of the production of sentences or what is called the deep structure of language. As for the transformational rules: they are the rules that transform the deep structure of the language into the structure by means of various elements: such as deletion, addition, and order change.

Meaning, it moves from the mental stage to the materialistic stage in written and the spoken. As for the reason for calling it chomsky's theory, According to the American researcher Avram Noam Chomsky the founder of the generative transformational theory in the language, Accordingly, we must introduce the father

of this modern theory of language, with a focus on the influences that helped Chomsky to produce an independent linguistic approach.

### **The first topic: Chomsky and the beginnings of Generative transformational theory**

Generative transformational theory is a revolution against structuralism, and it is characterized by its development in a short period, which gave its founder the opportunity to modify his ideas according to the critical studies that was written about this theory, which made him to abandoning some of his ideas and adding to them ideas and opinions that were not in them at the first (1). Avram Noam Chomsky was born in 1928 AD, his father was a linguist who helped him in historical linguistics and Hebrew grammar, then he contacted his teacher Zellig Harris in Pennsylvania, and studied Hebrew grammar as well as Ajrumiyah at the hands of his teacher, Franz Rosenthal, and was interested in studying logic and mathematics, and in 1951 Chomsky submitted his master's degree thesis in Hebrew entitled "A Morphological Study of Modern Hebrew" (2 ). Chomsky noticed that the capabilities that exist in human languages, make their speakers capable of creativity by inventing sentences and structures that they had not heard before. Chomsky believed that any linguistic theory that deals with language must determine the ability that the people of this language possess, and on this basis the linguistic system is built, and linguistic thinking start working to distinguish between three types of sentences: the grammatical sentence, the non-grammatical sentence, and the grammatically unacceptable sentence(3 ). Chomsky reported from previous grammarians and linguists, starting with Franz Boise, Sapir, and Bloomfield, to analyze the sentence into its direct grammatical components, linking language acquisition and the nature of grammatical rules, Distinguishing between the natural- born way in which the general and the individual are equal, and the performance in which the speakers differ, as he differentiated between the natural or sufficiency and performance or intuition, and made the generative a result of sufficiency, and the transformational a result of performance (4).When Chomsky wanted to analyze language in the light of structural linguistics, he realized that this approach would bear many weaknesses and shortcomings; So he thought of the generative approach, which helps him to develop a system of rules suitable to apply on sentences in all languages (5) (Włodarek, 2020).

In 1955 he received a doctorate in philosophy from Harvard University, and in his doctoral thesis he talked about the transformative approach, and in 1957 he published his first book, "Linguistic Structures", revolting against Bloomfield.

It is remarkable that Chomsky's fame in America is due to his being a leftist rejecting American politics and he wrote two books in the field of politics (6).

The summary of the approach was completed by Chomsky in 1965 when he began describing the grammatical process of sentence production and his work was manifested in stages based on combining the basic component and the transformative component within the so-called synthetic component. He continued

the search for a theory that avoids deficiencies, so he called for addressing the structural, phonetic and semantic rules through the independent mental structure that can be expressed in a logical form (7). Chomsky's generative approach was preceded by another approach, which is the distributional approach by Zellig Harris, Chomsky's professor. This approach indicates that linguistic sentences or contexts contain a linguistic element, and it is those sentences or contexts that affect it. An example of this is from Arabic as the advent of the tool "what" for exclamation, conditional, interrogative, and negation factor and non-factor (8), and this approach was an attempt to complete the descriptive method. Then he realized the inefficiency of "distributive analysis" and from here he began to adopt the transformational approach in his writings, and he published an article in 1954 AD entitled "Transformer grammar" in the International Journal of American Linguistics. The article contained eleven pages, in which he identified the concepts, rules, and instructions necessary to transform the sentences of one language from the sentences of another language, and to transform linguistic structures into symbols, and then he published other articles in the framework of transformation. Then these ideas appeared in Chomsky's book Syntactic Structures (9).

### **The idea of generative transformational theory**

Chomsky's idea of transformational grammar is summed up in the fact that the sentence passes through two stages when uttered by the speaker: The first is the use of basic rules related to the sufficiency of the speaker and his stored knowledge of the language, and he called it the rules, which is called the deep structure. **The second:** in which the transformational rules associated with performance, transforming the basic structure that is the product of the generative basic rules into a sentence of a final grammatical, pronunciation character, which is called the surface structure (10). The term transformation has become the basis in Chomsky's linguistic theory, and it refers to those grammatical operations that occur on one sentence to produce another sentence. For example: Zaid wrote the lesson, it can be converted into several sentences, including interrogative, negative or passive structures, so you say: Zaid wrote the lesson, does Zaid wrote the lesson, the lesson has been written. The term transformation may mean the transformation of the deep structure into an surface structure with the connection between them through a special system, and whoever sees the transformation that the sentence is taken from another sentence, and the rules of transformation seek to reveal the mental truth behind the actual linguistic performance found in the surface structure (11). Chomsky, in his book Syntactic Structures, referred to the early stages of his theory of transformational grammar, in which the transformational laws can be classified into two parts: First: An optional law: It is a law that may be applied to one sentence to produce another new sentence, and it can also not be applied because it does not conflict with grammatical correctness, as in converting the active voice to the passive voice. Second: Compulsory law: It is the law that must be applied to all sentences in the language in order for them to become grammatically correct, and

there is no defect in their sounds, morphological structure, or the grammatical structures. Chomsky also indicated that the theory of any language should revolve around three branches: language structure, language acquisition, language use, and the theory should include: the global phonemic aspect because it clarifies the idea of possible sentences, determining structures in description, and determining generative grammar, the method used, and the method that determines the value of choosing the purpose of grammar. Chomsky posed questions that served as the first stage for generative models, and the questions were: "What are the fields that linguistics should determine that are valid for it? Can the formal structure of language be studied for itself, Is it possible to separate matter and form? Can the formal structure in the theory be described without clinging to the meaning, even temporarily? (12). Chomsky assumed, according to the transformational theory, that there are eight rules, four of which are grammatical, and four are lexical, and these rules work together. The speaker chooses the literal, nominal, or actual component to start his speech by extracting at the same time the classification of these elements from the lexicon, and thus knows if what he is using is a verb, a noun, a defining device, a disclaimer, or a preposition (13). Transformational grammar differs from descriptive linguistics in its objectives, assumptions, methods, and methods of analysis; Because the descriptive approach is confined to the "spoken language", the samples are collected and classified starting with the phonetic side, then the morphological aspect, then the grammatical structure or the syntax without paying attention to the semantics. As for the transformative approach, it sees that the subject of linguistic study is the "knowledge" possessed by the users of the language, This knowledge that enables them to produce sentences and understand them without difficulty and this mechanism is called "competence" with its link to performance, and the transformative approach sees itself as the best because it can count all the data in a precise way, and it is related to the ideal listening speaker (14) (Service, 2021; Waśko, 2021).

### **The semantic aspect of the transformational generative theory**

Chomsky's theory has developed and adopted semantic approaches:1 –

The synthetic buildings that dealt with the generative, transformative, and morphological components.

2 - The normative approach: represented in research and critical studies.

3- Expanded normative approach: It represented in highlighting the lexical significance, and presenting it to the grammatical rules.

4 - The semantic grammar approach: It completes the shortcomings in its theory, as well as its use to correct errors.

5- The semantic classification approach: It is a complementary approach to classify the semantics of utterances, considering what distinguishes them from movement, stillness, feeling and circumstantial.

6- The factorial linkage approach: It was in the form of a set of theoretical perceptions that contributed to the development of his theory (15).

It is necessary to recognize competence and performance. competence means the linguistic abilities of (the language user), which enables him to express himself and understand others, while performance is the real use of language on various occasions.

### **The second topic: the concept of competence according to Chomsky**

Chomsky presented a duality of linguistic competence and linguistic performance. In his recent writings, and he reconsidered the concept of competence and limited it to two terms:

**A - Grammatical competence:** This competence is related to the theory of sentence structure, grammar rules, and the use of language in general, and this competence is related to intuition towards the well-formed sentence and towards the structure of the sentence  
**b- Pragmatic competence:** It relates to the role played by non-linguistic factors in the use of language, and the ability to interpret it to know its meanings, which is why we are practically restricted by many social laws that control the usage (16)

### **Transformation patterns**

There are several patterns in the English language, and it is not required that they all be valid in the Arabic language due to the characteristics of each language and its differences from the other. The most prominent of these patterns are:

Interrogative conversion, negation, construction of the passive, expansion, replacement, using the personal pronoun (17). Chomsky pointed out that every language has two structures: deep and external. The deep structure relates to the meaning or semantic interpretation of sentences and phrases, and is the source of the surface structure that refers to spoken or written phrases or sentences. Hence the transformationalists went to the fact that the deep structure is a universal phenomenon in all languages, and the benefit of studying the deep structure appears in explaining how languages differ among themselves and clarifying the right from wrong in the structures. It also indicates that every human mind has the ability to form its own sentence in its own way, stemming from its language. (18).

Chomsky aimed to generate a final amount of sentences through the provided sentences, and grammar should be a highly efficient tool, and he used descriptions such as: np, vp, pp for the nominal, verb and literal compound, In his book "Syntactic Structures" he tested three models to describe the grammatical structure: the first model is a simple model concerned with the theory of communication, the second is concerned with the structure of compounds, and the third model was the transformation model, which proved its efficiency by paying attention to the meaning and not just the grammatical aspect, and in the early sixties he developed this model towards a more comprehensive syntactic theory in his book "Aspects of Syntactic Theory" (19).

Chomsky's most recent work appeared in 1981 when he sought to unify the previous approaches under a new approach that enables generative and transformational rules to describe the abstract and sensory levels of all human languages, and can be represented as follows: The generative component and through the deep structure gives a transformative component, which through the surface structure gives the semantic and vocal component (20).

The term generative refers to a type of grammar that uses a set of standard laws to identify grammatically correct sentences in a language from incorrect ones. These generative rules are so clear that they can consider each sequence of words that leads to a tight sentence in its formulation in terms of Sound, structure, and semantics, And it appeared on Chomsky and his followers of transliteration according to the laws of generation with the term "Generative Transformational Grammar" or T.G grammar.

It must be noted that "arbitrarily dropping modern opinions on the Arabic grammar and its origins does not give it a new thing that it lacks, because they are opinions and theories that have developed in their languages, and each of them has its civilizational context and intellectual climate in which it arose. Rather, dropping such theories on the Arabic grammar indicates dissatisfaction with it, and tries to show it in the appearance of contradiction and confusion. The lovers of Western theories, sometimes they present Arabic grammar as descriptive and structural, and that is when the tide is with descriptive, and at other times they present it transformative and generative when the tide is like that (21). The Arabic grammar did not respond to all of that and remained preserving its splendor and strength. The reason behind this is the association of this grammar and parsing with the Holy Qur'an on the one hand, and the greatness of Arabic grammatical thought on the other, because it was the craft of the people at the time.

Transformational generative theory is in fact two complementary theories, generative theory is a set of rules that work through a number of vocabulary to generate an unlimited number of sentences. As for the transformational theory, it is concerned with applying a set of rules for deletion, replacement, addition and change of position on the sentences to obtain an infinite number of valid sentences.

### **Theoretical principles and assumptions**

In establishing his linguistic theory, Chomsky relied on a set of principles and hypotheses that have been modified according to the requirements and mechanisms of theoretical development. Among these principles are the following:

**1 - Language** is the best mirror that accurately and faithfully reflects the thinking mechanisms in the human mind, and this is the point of convergence between psychology and linguistics, and accordingly some linguists have argued that linguistics is the most important scientific field that reveals more about the humanity.

**2- The concept of transformation:** It is the key to Chomsky's theory, and

his idea is based on applying a specific set of transformation rules such as deletion, addition, replacement and change of location on a limited number of basic correct sentences to obtain an infinite number of correct sentences, such as negative sentences or Interrogative, passive, infinitive and short.

**3- Mental model and creativity:** Chomsky adopted the concept of human innate linguistic ability or the so-called mental model, which is innate instinctive language mechanisms and capabilities that grow through interaction with the linguistic environment during childhood, and help to accept and acquire linguistic information, store it and form the rules of the mother tongue, Until it reaches the stage of completeness and stability, and then the child can formulate and understand infinite sentences that he has not spoken or heard before, and this is the concept of creativity, man enjoys and is distinguished from other creatures by thinking, language and intelligence, the dumbest people can speak while the smartest animals can never. Chomsky noticed that the child differs from other beings in his ability to think inductively if he is exposed to linguistic data, as he acquires the ability to understand and produce language, while any other being will not acquire any of it, and he called this human linguistic ability of the "language acquisition device", and suggested That one of the tasks of linguists is to know this device, and what constraints it places on a possible set of languages. The principles-and-modal approach in his lectures on factorial connectivity renders the grammatical principles that define language innate and immutable, and the difference between the languages of the world can be described by media present exactly in the brain (such as the ellipsis operator during articulation which indicates if a subject is always required). Those who hold this view argue that the time in which the child learns the language is inexplicably fast, unless the children have an innate ability to learn the language, and that he needs only certain and limited characteristics of his mother tongue. This innate content of linguistic knowledge is called universal grammar, and similar steps followed by children around the world when they learn language, and the fact that children make specific mistakes while learning their first language, are all innate indicators of language acquisition. Chomsky's ideas have had a strong influence on research on language acquisition in children, although many researchers in this field have strongly opposed his theories such as Elizabeth Bates and Michael Tomasello, Instead they advocated reproductive or communicative theories that explain language through a number of mechanisms in the brain that interact with the vast and complex social environment in which language is used and taught.

**4 - The surface structure and the deep structure:** It is the surface level that determines the form of the sentences and organizes them as a physical phenomenon, while the deep structure is the one that is concerned with significance, and it contains a number of sentences, the basic ones that can be transformed.

**5- Distinguishing between language Competence and performance:** Competence is a term that means the total language system in the minds of all its users, and it is represented by individuals partially or implicitly. It is a special

faculty possessed by language users who have grown up and brought up on it. As for verbal performance, it means the way the individual implements and uses language as a target to communicate in different situations. In other words, competence is a complete embodiment of the language system for all (total) members of the linguistic group, and verbal performance is the group of sentences uttered by individuals according to the daily conditions of communication.

**6- Linguistic universal:** they are structural frameworks for building the laws to which the rules of languages are subject in general, and they include the conditions that must be met for formulating the rules of languages.

Chomsky's linguistics challenges structural linguistics and represents an introduction to transformational grammar, and this approach takes speech as distinct from formal grammar, especially in context-independent grammar extended with transformational rules, and his most influential contribution in this field is the hypothesis that modeling language knowledge using formal grammar is calculated in favor of language productivity and creativity. In other words, the formal grammar of a language can explain the ability of the listener and speaker to produce and interpret an infinite number of speech - including novelistic speech - with a limited set of grammar and terminology.

### **research results**

- 1 - What Chomsky and the transformationalists called selection restriction and the consequent grammatical system and contextual position we see clear in the words of Ibn Jinni when he said: "Do you not see that when you hear a beating, you know its event and its time, then you look later and say: This is a verb and must have a subject, so who he is and what he is, then you will search until you know the subject who is and what his condition is, So your saying: Hitting Zaid, hitting Amr, hitting Jaafar, and the like is the same law, and striking one of these perpetrators or others is not specific to him, as it is related to beating without other events and the past without other structures (22).
- 2 - Transformers make the constraints of choice or restricted choice a productive rule, for every word to enter into a grammatical relationship with any other has its own choice condition, so if it passes the optional condition, the grammatical and semantic relationship is valid together (23).
- 3 - Looking at the phonetic form spoken in the sentence, which represents a component of the semantic interpretation in terms of choice, we will find that it represents what is known to the transformers as (Rules Transformational), Which transforms the abstract esoteric structure that contains the meaning of the sentence into a material structure that embodies the structure of the sentence and its form, and through which grammatical transformations such as deletion, replacement, lengthening, introduction, etc ,Looking at the spoken phonetic form or the structure of the sentence, we will find a similarity between Sibawayh and Al-Jurjani's



theory and Chomsky's theory in interpreting the significance in his book "Chomsky: Selected readings".

- 5 - Chomsky did not differ much in the conduct of dualities from that of Saussure, for language according to Chomsky is divided into ( Competence and performance).

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- See Linguistics: 173.  
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Pragmatism: a science concerned with studying the factors that influence a person's choice of language, and the effect of this choice on others.  
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