

Transformational grammar is an approach to the use of grammar in communications that involves a logical and analytical process to fully grasp the meaning behind the words selected. From this perspective, it goes beyond the process of structural grammar, which tends to focus on the proper construction of sentences as the device for communication. Along with sentence structure, this type of grammar will also attempt to explore the thought behind the words.

Sometimes referred to as TG, transformational grammar attempts to apply logic to the task of looking into the deeper meanings of the structure of sentences, and to analyze both the surface and the underlying intent of the words used. This means employing more than just a visual approach to the words that make up the sentence. Syntax also plays a role in the logical process of transformational grammar, as will context. To a degree, this type of grammar calls upon most of the tools of linguistics in an attempt to fully analyze the spoken or written word.

One of the main proponents of the idea of transformational grammar was Noam Chomsky. During the middle portion of the 20th century, Chomsky worked to develop a logical approach to analyzing the syntax of structural grammar within the setting of the English language. As a result of his efforts, Chomsky developed and promoted the concept of grammar as being a broader theory regarding language structure, rather than simply defining a method for developing the structure for sentences. This approach had been inherent for centuries in the broader concepts of universal grammar. But due to the work of Chomsky, linguists and grammarians began to understand transformational grammar as a discipline all its own.

People engage in the task of approaching grammar from a transformational approach every day. In some cases, it is a matter of employing grammar as a means of comprehending a grouping of words within the setting or context, rather than focusing on the actual structure of the words. At other times, this type of grammar is utilized as a means of conveying more than one meaning. The double-entendre may be thought of as a limited example of transformational grammar, as the device provides both a surface and a hidden conveyance of ideas.

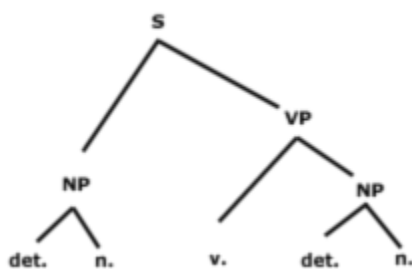
What is Transformational Grammar?

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Sample Phrase Structure Tree



Transformational grammar is a form of language analysis that establishes a relationship with the different elements in the sentence of a language and makes use of rules or transformations to recognize these relationships.

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What are the basic concepts of Transformational Grammar?

Transformational grammar which is usually generative grammar describes a language with the help of transformational rules. It involves logical reasoning to understand fully the meaning of the selected words. As such **transformational grammar** goes a step ahead of *structural grammar* which focuses more on the sentence structures used for communication. Apart from the use of correct sentence structure, **transformational grammar** analyses the words with reference to its underlying thoughts. Transformational grammar employs most of the linguistic tools such as [syntax](#) and context to explore the possible meanings of words.

Who is the architect of Transformational Grammar?

Transformational Grammar also known as Transformational Generative [Grammar](#) (TGG) refers to the theory of generative [grammar](#) of a natural language, developed by Chomsky. **Transformational grammar** is basically a theory to understand the processing of grammatical knowledge in the human brain. Noam Chomsky, the U.S. linguist, was the main propagator of transformational [grammar](#) in the 1960's. His theory opposed the earlier theories of structuralism by rejecting the idea that each language is different from the other. In fact transformational [grammar](#) analyses language on the basis of certain universal tenets in languages.

Define the Deep Structure and Surface Structure of Transformational Grammar?

According to Chomskyan theory, **transformational grammar** involves two levels to represent the structure of sentences known as the “*deep structure*” and the “*surface structure*”. The “*deep structure*” implies a more abstract form underlying the structure of a sentence. It is represented by a “*phrase structure tree*” in which the abstract relations between words and phrases of a sentence are depicted in a “*hierarchical tree diagram*”. The “*surface structure*” refers to the actual form of the structure of a sentence used. Besides the two levels of sentence structure, transformational [grammar](#) consists of a body of formal rules to enable transforming deep structures to surface structures.

What is a Phrase Structure Tree in Transformational Grammar?

A phrase structure tree in **transformational grammar** is a diagrammatic representation of sentences distinguished by their syntactic characteristics. Thus we have verb phrases (VP), noun phrases (NP), prepositional phrases (PP) and so on. Most of the sentence structures in a language are governed by phrase structure rules. For example, sentences in English are governed by the rule that they should contain a Noun Phrase (NP) and a Verb Phrase (VP)

What is the use of Transformational Grammar?

Transformational grammar is used routinely to understand the grouping of words in a particular context. For example look at the sentences, “*John wrote a poem on the spring season*” and “*A poem on the spring season was written by John*”. According to Chomsky these sentences originate from a deeper and more abstract grammatical structure. **Transformational grammar** explains how actual sentences evolve by manipulating the common form of sentence structures. A number of different theories have since evolved but they are all based on the Chomsky's original theory of **transformational grammar**.