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The Study of Language

Chapter (7) Grammar

Third stage



Grammar

The process of describing the structure of phrases and sentences in such a way that we account for all the grammatical sequences in a language and rule out all the ungrammatical sequences .

- The lucky boys
- *boys The lucky
- *Lucky boys The

Article+adjective +noun

Traditional grammar

The terms "article", "adjective" and "noun" that we used to label the grammatical categories of the words in the phrase .

The lucky boys

Come from traditional grammar, which has its origins in the description of language such as Latin and Greek .

The best-known terms from that tradition are those used in describing the parts of speech .

The parts of speech

Terms are used to label forms in the language they are 8 terms

Nouns : (boy, cat, and school..)

Articles : (a, an, the)

Adjectives : (happy, large, strange..)

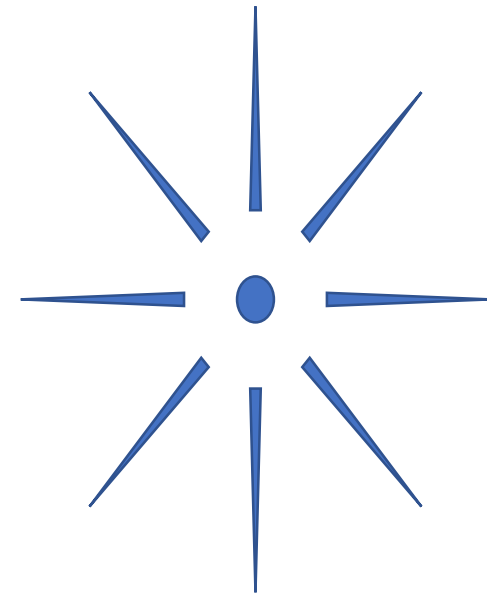
Verbs : (go, talk, be, have..)

Adverbs : (slowly, yesterday, really, very..)

Prepositions : (at, in, on, near, with, without..)

Pronouns : (she, he, they, it, you..)

Conjunctions : (and, but, because, when..)



Agreement

A number of categories in addition to the terms used for the parts of speech .

Number (singular or plural)

Person (first person, second person or third person)

Tense (past, present, future..)

Voice (active voice or passive voice)

Gender (male or female)

Cathy loves her mom

Grammatical gender

The type of biological distinction used in English is quite different from the more common distinction found in language that use grammatical gender.

Whereas natural gender is based on sex (male and female), grammatical gender is based on the type of noun (masculine and feminine) and is not tied to sex.

A Gaelic sentence

The differences between the Gaelic sentence and English sentence.

Chunnaic	an	gille	an	cu	dubh
Saw	the	boy	the	dog	black

The boy saw the black dog

Traditional analysis

The forms for the latin verb amare (to love). Present tense, active voice

First person singular (I) love amo

Second person singular (you) (love) amas

Third person singular (she) loves amat

First person plural (we) love amamus

Second person plural (you) love amatis

Third person plural (they) love amant

Each of the Latin verb forms is different, according to the categories of person and number, yet the English verb forms are (with one exception) .mostly the same

The prescriptive approach

Is a set of rules for the use of language is still to be found today these rules are

You must not split an infinitive

You must not end a sentence with a preposition

Should never begin a sentence with and

The descriptive approach

Describe the regular structure of the language as it was used, not according to some view of how it should be used

Structural analysis

Its main concern is to investigate the distribution of forms in a . language

The method involves the use of "test-frames" that can be sentences with empty slots in them. For example

The _____ makes a lot of noise

(car, dog, radio)

_____ Makes a lot of noise

(An old car, the big dog, a radio)



Constituent analysis

An approach with the same descriptive aims. The technique employed in this approach is designed to show how small constituents (or components) in sentences go together to form larger constituents .

In the following sentence, we can identify nine constituents at the word level

An old man brought a shotgun to the wedding

Noun phrases : an old man, a shotgun, the wedding

Prepositional phrase : to the wedding

Verb phrase : brought a shotgun

Labeled and bracketed sentences

The dog loved the bone

An alternative type of diagram is designed to show how the constituents in sentence structure can be marked off by using labeled brackets

