

**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD  
(Department of English Language & Applied Linguistics)**

Welcome to the MA TEFL course 5668 “Modern Grammatical Theory”. By this time you must be quite familiar with the terminology related with English language and English language teaching, including the meaning and sound system of the language, the construction of structures, the traditional grammar, the psychology and sociology of language, the language learning and teaching strategies and finally the evaluation and correction techniques. The current course is aimed at giving you an insight into the theories and application of modern grammar, as suggested by the course title. It mainly includes Chomsky’s work on grammar. However, by grammar we do not mean the rules about constructing correct sentences which are generally taught in schools and colleges. We are in fact concerned about those sets of principles and rules which allow us to produce written or spoken strings of words which make sense.

We strongly hope and wish that you derive the maximum from this course and apply the knowledge for effective classroom teaching so that the desired objectives are achieved.

Best of luck,

**Course Coordinator**

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**WARNING**

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

**Course: Modern Grammatical Theory  
Course Code: 5668**

**Semester: Autumn, 2013  
Total Marks: 100  
Pass Marks: 40**

**ASSIGNMENT No. 1**

- Q.1 According to Yule's interpretation of Chomsky's theory what are the four components of descriptive grammar? Define each of the four components with one example of each component. **(20)**
- Q.2 Chomsky affirms that all languages are rule-governed. How would you explain this principle, as it applies to languages? You can use any two languages that you know, to elaborate this principle. **(10)**
- Q.3
- a) Write a sentence, point out its head using a tree diagram. **(10)**
  - b) Use the same sentence to create the sentence node, the NP node and the VP node.
  - c) Use the same sentence, write it according to the rules of labeled bracket diagram.
  - d) What is the modifier in a sentence? Give an example.
  - e) What is an intensifier? Give an example.
- Q.4
- a) What is meant by the term transformational generative grammar? Explain with the help of suitable examples. **(15)**
  - b) What are the recursive rules? Illustrate with examples.
  - c) How would you link recursiveness with creativity?
  - d) What is embedding? Illustrate with an example.
  - e) Explain with examples the term syntactic category.
- Q.5
- a) What is the linear model of grammar? Construct a sentence based on this model. **(10)**
  - b) What is another name for the linear model grammar, and why is it termed so?
- Q.6
- a) What is structural description and what is its position in Chomsky's grammar? **(10)**
  - b) What is the NP Movement in a sentence? Give an example.

- c) What is the Wh-movement in a sentence? Give adequate examples to show that you have understood the concept.
  - d) What are the modals and what are their functions? Give examples.
  - e) What is progressive aspect and perfect phase? Clarify the distinction through examples.
- Q.7 What is the head parameter in a sentence? Give examples, using tree diagrams, in at least two languages. **(10)**
- Q.8 What are the features that languages share in the domain of Universal grammar? Discuss with examples. **(15)**

## **ASSIGNMENT No. 2**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment is based on a research-oriented activity. You are required to study the relevant area/ conduct research and prepare a brief report on your findings in the area given. You will then have to submit one copy of the report to the tutor within the scheduled period and at the same time present the report/project in one of the tutorials (the schedule/plan of the tutorials for the presentations will be intimated by the tutor concerned or the Regional Director). The compulsory presentation carries 100 marks, 40 marks for the written report and 60 for the presentations.

A few guidelines for the written report and the presentation:

- a) The written report should have an introduction, body and conclusion. It should be written in clear concise and correct English.
- b) It should be 5-8 double spaced typed/handwritten pages.
- c) The presentation is to be assessed and evaluated mainly in:
  - i. Contents of the assignment/report
  - ii. Communication skills
  - iii. Language accuracy
  - iv. Language fluency
  - v. Presentation style

You may use transparencies, charts or any other relevant material for impressive presentation with the permission of your tutor.

## **Research – oriented activity**

### **Attempt one of the following activities:**

While learning a language, how does a child set up the parameters of that language in his/her mind? Discuss briefly. As a case study, consider the language learning process of a child you know and elaborate the above concept. Report your findings in the assignment and present verbally in the tutorial.

**Or**

Discuss some of the theories of language learning in the classroom as discussed in the Cook's article (5668 textbook). Use one of these theories in your classroom to find out its effectiveness in learning a language. Record your observation. Present in the tutorial.