



FUTURE SCIENCE

# A KEY CONCEPT OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTAX

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Book Chapter

## **A Key Concept of English Morphosyntax**

## **UU No 28 tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta**

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## PREFACE

First of all, Thanks to Allah, the Almighty for the blessing and guidance to finish this book. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the authors for the idea and valuable knowledge throughout this book that entitled **A Key Concept of English Morphosyntax**.

Morphosyntax, a linguistic branch of study in which morphology and syntax make an intersection. This book consists of 10 chapters: (1) The meaning and concept of English morphosyntax, (2) classification of English morphosyntax (3) English morphemes, (4) affixation, (5) parts of speech, (6) Tree diagram in English syntax, (7) generative grammar, (8) functional grammar, (9) related theories of generative grammar and functional grammar, (10) case study.

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Pematang Siantar, January 2025

Editor

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PREFACE.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	vi
CHAPTER 1     THE MEANING AND CONCEPT OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTAX.....	1
Amelia Meidhiatiningsih.....	1
1.1.     INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2.     DEFINING MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX .....	2
1.3.     CORE CONCEPTS IN ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTAX.....	4
1.4.     SYNTAX AND AGREEMENT .....	4
1.5.     MORPHOSYNTACTIC THEORIES AND MODELS .....	6
CHAPTER 2     THE CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTACTIC .....	9
Putri Ana Nurani .....	9
2.1.     INTRODUCTION.....	9
2.2.     MORPHOSYNTAX.....	10
2.3.     MORPHOSYNTAX FOR WRITING.....	12
2.4.     MORPHOSYNTACTIC TEACHING MATERIALS .....	15
2.5.     CONCLUSION .....	18
CHAPTER 3     ENGLISH MORPHEMES.....	27
Ratna Sari Dewi .....	27
3.1.     INTRODUCTION.....	27
3.2.     DEFINITION OF MORPHEME .....	29

3.3.	TYPES OF MORPHEME.....	30
3.4.	DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES .....	32
3.5	CONCLUSION .....	37
CHAPTER 4	AFFIXES .....	41
	Abdulloh.....	41
4.1.	INTRODUCTION .....	41
4.2.	WORD & VOCABULARY.....	42
4.3.	MORPHEME AND MORPHOLOGY .....	44
4.4.	AFFIXES .....	46
4.5.	SUFFIXES .....	59
4.6.	CONCLUSION .....	77
CHAPTER 5	PARTS OF SPEECH .....	81
	Cattleya Wahyu Pravitha .....	81
5.1.	INTRODUCTION .....	81
5.2	NOUN .....	81
5.3.	VERBS.....	83
5.4.	ADJECTIVES .....	85
5.5.	ADVERBS .....	86
5.6.	PRONOUNS .....	88
5.7.	PREPOSITIONS .....	90
5.8.	CONJUNCTIONS .....	92
5.9.	INTERJECTIONS .....	93
5.10.	CONCLUSION.....	95
CHAPTER 6	TREE DIAGRAM IN ENGLISH SYNTAX .....	99
	Indra Nugraha .....	99



6.1.	INTRODUCTION.....	99
6.2.	ROOT AND STEM.....	99
6.3.	RULES OF ENGLISH WORDS.....	100
6.4.	PHRASAL STRUCTURES .....	105
6.5.	ANALYZING SENTENCES THROUGH TREE DIAGRAM.....	108
CHAPTER 7	GENERATIVE GRAMMAR .....	119
	Maulana Teguh Perdana.....	119
7.1.	INTRODUCTION TO GENERATIVE GRAMMAR.....	119
7.2.	CORE CONCEPTS OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR.....	120
7.3.	CRITICISMS AND CHALLENGES TO GENERATIVE GRAMMAR .....	125
7.4.	SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES IN GENERATIVE GRAMMAR.....	126
7.5.	APPLICATIONS OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR.....	130
7.6.	IMPLICATIONS FOR LINGUISTICS AND EDUCATION .....	132
7.7.	CONCLUSION .....	134
CHAPTER 8	FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR .....	137
	Aswir .....	137
8.1.	INTRODUCTION.....	137
8.2.	MORPHOSYNTAX IN RELATION TO FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR .....	138
8.3.	FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR .....	140
8.4.	FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR IN PRACTICE.....	144

8.5.	EXERCISE.....	148
8.6.	CONCLUSION .....	149
CHAPTER 9	RELATED THEORIES OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR.....	153
	Irma Wahyuni .....	153
9.1.	INTRODUCTION .....	153
9.2.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR .....	155
9.3.	CONCEPTS AND ASPECTS OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR.....	157
9.4.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR.....	159
9.5.	SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS (SFL).....	161
9.6.	RESEARCH TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS OF GENERATIVE APPROACH IN LINGUISTIC STUDIES .....	163
9.7.	RESEARCH TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS OF FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH IN LINGUISTIC STUDIES .....	165
9.8.	CONCLUSION.....	167
CHAPTER 10	CASE STUDY .....	177
	Aditya Eko Adrianto .....	177
10.1.	INTRODUCTION .....	177
10.2.	DISCUSSIONS .....	179
10.3.	CONCLUSION.....	191

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **THE MEANING AND CONCEPT OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTAX**

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### **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

Morphosyntax, a linguistic branch of study in which morphology and syntax make an intersection, is very important to understand how languages work in the layer of words and sentences. In English, morphosyntax creates the basis for producing meaning in material both at a word level and a sentence level (Radford, 2004). Morphology is a branch of linguistics that deals with the internal structure of words and the analysis of the smallest meaning units called morphemes, and at the same time syntax is responsible for the way words are put together to create more complex structures like phrases, clauses, and sentences (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2022). It is in the context of English that morphosyntax has a special importance due to the fact that there are certain morphological forms that may influence the syntactic structure and vice versa (Huddleston & Pullum, 2005). Stemming from the study of morphosyntax linguists and educators can get a hold on the complexity in languages and they go further to the discovery of the complicated grammar in the course of communication (Fromkin et al., 2017). Therefore, this chapter deals with the issue of the concepts, theories, and practical applications of English morphosyntax are the most important ones that show its relevance for language understanding, usage, and teaching.

## 1.2. DEFINING MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

### **Morphology: The Structure of Words**

Morphology refers to the structure of words from within, as well as the rules that describe word formation (Lieber, 2021). In English, the morphemes which make up the words are the smallest units carrying meaning or grammatical function. They are sub-divided into two types: free morphemes and bound morphemes. Free morphemes can even be used all by themselves, including commonly used book, run, or fast. In the other case, bound morphemes do not make sense independently without a base word to which they can directly attach, and provide meaning or transform the base (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2022). Bound morphemes in English are, among others—those attached to the plural forms of nouns (thus cats), those preceded by past tense punctualization (-ed as in walked), as well as some prefixes and suffixes (-un as in unhappy)—like the inconsonancy of the prefix (un- as in unhappy) and the suffix (-ness as in kindness) (Fromkin et al., 2017).

English has two types of morphological processes, inflection, and derivation. The concept of inflectional morphology is related to the changes made in the form of a word to express the grammatical features like tense, number, and possession (Sag & Wasow, 2000). To illustrate, the verb walk can be reformulated into walks (present tense, third-person singular) or walked (past tense), and nouns, such as a dog, can be transformed into dogs, thus, the plural form. Nevertheless, derivational morphology modifies a word's category or meaning by the addition of affixes. An example is the suffix -er which when added to the verb teach forms the noun teacher. Thus, many morphological rules, although they are the most common ones, have their own peculiarities that make them more difficult

### **3. Functional Grammar**

Functional Grammar highlights that morphosyntactic choices are often driven by context, speaker intent, and discourse considerations, underscoring language's adaptability to social interaction and communication (Bates & MacWhinney, 1982).

### **Applications and Implications of Morphosyntax in English Language Learning**

Understanding morphosyntax proves essential in English language acquisition and aids learners in overcoming challenges related to sentence structure and inflectional forms (Spada & Lightbown, 2006). Common difficulties include mastering irregular verb forms, subject-verb agreement, and the correct use of pronouns, especially for learners from different linguistic backgrounds.

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is a dedicated educator and linguist from Indonesia with expertise in Language Education, linguistics, and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). She holds a Master's degree in Linguistics from Padjadjaran University and a Bachelor's degree in English Education from Bale Bandung University. With over a decade of experience teaching English and Arabic at Persis Islamic High School, she is passionate about language education. Amelia has authored educational materials to enhance language learning in Indonesia. Her work reflects a deep commitment to advancing both teaching and linguistic studies.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTACTIC**

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#### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

Linguistics is one of the main disciplines that significantly contributes to language teaching. Various aspects of linguistics, including micro and macro linguistics, are studied scientifically. Language serves as the object of study in linguistics, while in the language teaching profession, it becomes the subject of learning. The discipline of linguistics provides an endless source of theoretical and empirical information for language educators and other language practitioners to utilize for their professional purposes. The academic perspectives and insights on language generated by linguistics are published through various national and international platforms. Hence, it is not surprising that language teacher education curricula are rich with courses on linguistics or linguistics-related topics.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) extends the functions of linguistics to almost all fields of knowledge. The study of linguistics, both micro and macro, can transform human thought patterns by demonstrating that linguistics offers functional insights into language across nearly all domains of knowledge. Linguistics is semiotic in nature, meaning that language is not only used for speaking and writing but also for explaining signs, sounds, and images.

The micro-linguistics components include Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. These

components are typically designed to provide students with sufficient linguistic knowledge in these areas. Meanwhile, the macro-linguistics components include Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, Ecolinguistics, Ethnolinguistics or Anthropological Linguistics, Semiotics, Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics, and others. In addition, students are also introduced to English grammar, aimed at presenting the inherent grammar concepts in language use, with a particular focus on grammatical aspects. Before taking such courses, students are usually required to complete prerequisite introductory courses. These courses are structured and presented in a way that sparks students' curiosity about linguistics and motivates them to delve deeper when they encounter linguistics courses in subsequent semesters.

## **2.2. MORPHOSYNTAX**

### **Grammatical Teaching for Writing**

Carole (2015) in *The Effect of Grammatical Teaching (Syntax) in English on 5 to 16-year-olds' Accuracy and Quality in Written Composition* highlights the relevance of this work as a reference source, particularly in the system of syntactic teaching and learning models. The concept of grammatical refers to the development of instructional materials for grammar courses through a morphosyntactic perspective to improve basic writing skills. In this concept, grammatical includes both morphology and syntax, which are the stages toward writing. This aligns with Hyland's (2003) statement, "Grammar instruction often takes the form of error correction at the editing stage rather than being provided to learners prior to writing." The concept of grammatical consists of morphology and syntax. Crystal (1987) emphasized the integration of both, which is necessary to improve basic writing skills.



## 6. Challenges in Morphosyntax

Studying morphosyntax involves addressing questions like: How do languages with rich morphological systems manage syntax? How do morphosyntactic rules vary in languages with flexible word orders? What happens when morphosyntactic rules are violated?

## 7. Applications

Morphosyntax is applied in: Language Teaching: Helps explain grammatical rules to learners.

Natural Language Processing (NLP): Guides the development of algorithms for tasks like machine translation.  
Linguistic Research: Explores cross-linguistic patterns and universals.

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## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ENGLISH MORPHEMES**

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#### **3.1. INTRODUCTION**

The study of morphemes is essential for understanding how words are formed and how their meanings can change with the addition of different morphemes. This has implications not only for morphology but also for semantics (the study of meaning) and syntax (the study of sentence structure). In the context of generative grammar, as proposed by Noam Chomsky, morphemes are integral to understanding the rules of language and the relationship between form and meaning. Chomsky's theories highlighted that while syntax governs the arrangement of words and phrases, morphemes play a crucial role in providing the necessary semantic content. Furthermore, the analysis of morphemes contributes to various linguistic applications, including language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics. Understanding how morphemes function can help researchers and educators develop better methods for teaching language, analyzing language disorders, and exploring language variation across different social groups. Finally, the study of morphemes is foundational to the field of linguistics, bridging morphology, syntax, and semantics while providing insights into the complexity and diversity of human language.

Studying morphemes is important in English (and any language) for several reasons:

1. **Understanding Word Formation:** Morphemes are the smallest units of meaning in a language. By studying them,

learners can understand how words are formed and how new words can be created through processes like affixation (adding prefixes and suffixes) and compounding.

2. **Enhancing Vocabulary:** A strong grasp of morphemes allows learners to decode unfamiliar words. For example, knowing that "un-" means "not" and "-able" means "able" helps in understanding the word "unavailable."
3. **Improving Spelling:** Many spelling rules in English are based on morphemes. Understanding how morphemes function can help learners spell words correctly, especially when adding prefixes or suffixes.
4. **Facilitating Word Analysis:** Recognizing morphemes can aid in analyzing words within texts, which is particularly useful in academic and literary contexts. This can enhance comprehension and interpretation.
5. **Supporting Language Learning:** For language learners, a focus on morphemes aids in mastering grammar rules (e.g., verb conjugations, plurals) and can help them avoid common errors that arise from misunderstanding word structures.
6. **Exploring Morphological Patterns:** Understanding the patterns of morphemes in English can reveal historical language development and influence, helping learners connect with etymology and the evolution of the language.
7. **Assisting in Language Acquisition:** Knowledge of morphemes supports cognitive processes in language acquisition, enabling learners to create and manipulate language more efficiently.
8. **Improving Reading and Writing:** Awareness of morphemes assists both reading comprehension and writing skills by allowing individuals to parse complex words, understand nuanced meanings, and develop more sophisticated vocabulary.



exactly one of these categories since they are mutually exclusive. Free morphemes are capable of acting as words on their own. Only as components of words, bound morphemes are always found with a root, albeit occasionally they are not. The act of creating new words by appending affixes to existing ones without altering the word's class is known as inflectional inflection. Stated differently, adding a syllable to a word that changes its class is called derivation. For instance, affixing "dance" to "dancer" changes the word's class. But the meanings of "satisfied" and "unsatisfied" are very different from one another. Thus, even if the word class changes—that is, adjectives into adjectives—the process moves into the derivation phase rather than the inflection phase.

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## AUTHOR'S PROFILE



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The writer named Ratna Sari Dewi, was born in Medan, North Sumatra. The author is the eldest of four children. The level of education that has been taken starts from elementary school at Mulia Darma Private Elementary School then continues to the level of SMP Negeri 22 Medan and high school at SMA Negeri 3 Medan majoring in science. After that, the author took undergraduate studies at the Islamic University of North Sumatra at the Faculty of English Letters in 2001 and continued her Master's Degree at Delhi University, India in 2006 at the Art Faculty majoring in Linguistics (ICCR scholarship from the Indian Consulate in Medan). The professions that the author has worked including: as an English teacher at MTs Al Mahrus; as an elementary school teacher at Mulia Darma School, Mickey and Mini Course Teacher, Lecturer at Muhammadiyah University, North Sumatra, etc. Becoming a lecturer requires the author to carry out the tri dharma of higher education, namely teaching, publication of scientific works, community service and attending various seminars and conferences. For the publication of scientific works, the author has published several scientific works in national and international journals. The author has also written several books with ISBNs, including those entitled: Psycholinguistics, English for Agriculture, Drama, etc.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **AFFIXES**

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#### **4.1. INTRODUCTION**

The four primary language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—are well-known to us from language acquisition activities. Grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and other elements that are not included in the core language skills are referred to as sublanguage skills. Grammar and vocabulary are frequently covered equally and jointly. We refer to the consideration of them as *lexicogrammar*. (Larsen-Freeman & Celce-Murcia, 2016). Vocabulary as one of sub skills plays an important role for language learner to master the language skill.

Many researchers already proved that there is close relationship between mastering vocabulary and mastering the language skill. (Syarifudin et al., 2014), (Ummah, 2019). The other study in the paper aims to create a list of academic English derivational suffixes to help EFL teachers decide which derivational suffixes to be taught first and help their learners, especially those of higher education, expand their vocabulary size. (Suhandoko & Ningrum, 2020). This chapter discusses the importance of metalinguistic awareness in mastering vocabulary to English language learners and educators. The author employs a methodical discussion to explain and make the topic easier to understand more about learning vocabulary especially affixes. The following is the order of the systematic discussions:

1. Word and Vocabulary
2. Morpheme, Morphology: - Free Morpheme and Bound Morpheme
  - Affixes: Prefix, Infix, and Suffix.
  - Prefixes: 1. Quantified Prefixes (Table 4.1), 2. Locative Prefixes. (Table 4.2), 3. Temporal Prefixes. (Table 4.3), 4. Negation Prefixes (Table 4.4).
  - Suffix: 1. Noun or Nominal Suffixes (Table 4.5), 2. Verbal Suffixes (Table 4.6), 3. Adjectival Suffixes (Table 4.7), 4. Adverbial Suffixes (Table 4.8).
3. Conclusion

## **4.2. WORD & VOCABULARY**

A word is a single unit of language that has meaning and can be spoken or written. (Larsen-Freeman & Celce-Murcia, 2016). A word is A meaningful unit of speech which is normally uninteruptable, and which when written or printed has spaces on either side (the orthographic word). Native speakers intuitively recognize the word as a distinct meaningful grammatical unit of language. (Taylor et al., 1950). The terms “words” and “vocabulary” are often used interchangeably, but they actually have slightly different meanings such as the following explanations:

1. Individual language units with meaning are called words. Adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and verbs can all be among them.
2. A person's vocabulary is their collection of words. It contains terms that an individual can comprehend and utilise while speaking or writing for themselves.

Several aspects that we have to be considered related with learning vocabulary according to Lado as follows: meaning, spelling, pronunciation, and word class.

## 4.6. CONCLUSION

Talking about affixes is the same as talking about *words and vocabulary*. The subject of *morphology and morphemes* inevitably leads to the discussion of words. The author attempted to follow the classification of morphemes into *bound and free morphemes*, which has already been established by numerous linguists, prior to studying the affixes. The linguists then divide the affixes into four categories, *including quantitative, locative, temporal, and negation prefixes*. The linguists then proceed to categorise the suffixes into *nominal, adjectival, verbal, and adverbial suffixes*. The author has limited the number of pages in this chapter, thus the list of prefixes and suffixes indicated above is not entered in full in the table. After giving the link to each prefix and suffix, the author proceeds to enter the list of words. Additionally, the author does not enter every link. English has no infix; it only has *prefixes and suffixes*, according to a comparative study of affixes between English and Indonesian and other European languages. *Meaning, spelling, pronunciation, word class, word formation, word use, and word grammar* are some of the crucial aspects that need to be taken into account when learning affixes. Since those points have an impact on how the affixes are formed, we cannot ignore them. The opinions of linguists and several scientific journals writers are used to round up the affix research and discussion. Finally, a single chapter discussing affixes is insufficient; even famous scholar of Linguistics, Ingo Plag also discusses word formation in a 245-page book titled *Word Formation in English*.

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Author's Profile Drs. Abdulloh, M.Pd He was born in Tegal, Central Java in September 1967. He completed S1 IKIP Jakarta, now UNJ in 1986, then he continued his Post Graduate Program in Universitas PGRI Indra Prasta Jakarta , and graduated in 2016. He has been active as Lecturer since 2008 till now. His previous homebase was Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing (STIBA) IEC

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## **CHAPTER 5**

### **PARTS OF SPEECH**

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#### **5.1. INTRODUCTION**

Understanding the parts of speech is fundamental to grasping the morphosyntax of English. Morphosyntax refers to the study of how words are structured and combined to form sentences. This chapter will delve into the theory behind the parts of speech, provide illustrative examples, and offer exercises to reinforce understanding. The parts of speech are categories into which words are grouped based on their grammatical functions and properties. The parts of speech in English are nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

#### **5.2 NOUN**

Nouns are fundamental elements in language, serving as the building blocks for communication. They are words that denote people, places, things, and ideas. Understanding the different types of nouns is crucial for effective and clear expression. This subchapter will delve into the four main categories of nouns: common nouns, proper nouns, collective nouns, and abstract nouns, providing detailed explanations and exercises to reinforce learning.

##### **a. Common Nouns**

Common nouns are generic terms used to refer to people, places, or things without specifying particular individuals or entities.

They are not capitalized unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence or in a title. Examples:

1. Animal (dog, cat, bird)
2. Place (city, park, library)
3. Thing (book, chair, car)
4. Idea (happiness, sadness, joy)

#### **b. Proper Nouns**

Proper nouns are names of specific people, places, or organizations. They are always capitalized to distinguish them from common nouns. Examples:

1. People (John, Emily, Michael)
2. Places (London, New York, Tokyo)
3. Organizations (Google, NASA, UNESCO)

#### **c. Collective Nouns**

Collective nouns refer to groups of people, animals, or things. They can be treated as singular or plural, depending on the context. Examples:

1. People (family, team, committee)
2. Animals (herd, flock, pack)
3. Things (collection, set, series)

#### **d. Abstract Nouns**

Abstract nouns represent concepts or feelings that cannot be physically touched or seen. Examples:

1. Emotions (love, anger, fear)
2. Concepts (freedom, justice, peace)
3. States (happiness, sadness, joy)

Prepositions are words that indicate the relationship between a noun or pronoun and the other words in a sentence. They can represent place, direction, time, and other relationships and are essential in the construction of phrases and clauses. Conjunctions are words that join sentences, phrases, or clauses. They are divided into three types: coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions, each of which connects ideas and forms complicated sentences. The final one is interjections. Interjections are words that convey emotions or feelings. They can be used to express powerful emotions like delight, surprise, rage, or sadness, which adds depth to communication.

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## **AUTHOR'S PROFILE**



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The author is a scholar in the field of linguistics, completed her Master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Indonesia in 2014. Her academic journey has been marked by a deep-seated passion for the intricacies of language and its applications. Since 2015, she has served as a lecturer at Merdeka University of

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## **CHAPTER 6**

### **TREE DIAGRAM IN ENGLISH SYNTAX**

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#### **6.1. INTRODUCTION**

Before discussing tree diagrams, we must know and be familiar with the fundamental concepts of morphology and syntax. Morphologically, a morpheme is the smallest unit or the essential element of a grammatical construction that has meaning (Deterding & Poedjosoedarmo, 2001; Fromkin et al., 2014; Mithun & Malmkjaer, 1995; O'Grady & Dobrovolsky.,1996). A word may be composed of a morpheme or more. From the morphology perspective, we must also be familiar with the concept of root and stem. In addition to root and stem, understanding phrasal structures, syntactic categories, and sentences is necessary. A tree diagram is beneficial in analyzing the structures of words, phrases, and sentences (Burton-Roberts, 2011; Fromkin et al., 2014). When we understand more about these structures, we better perceive English. Those comprehending sentence components through a tree diagram may result in a better ability to write descriptive texts (Tuti et al., 2023).

#### **6.2. ROOT AND STEM**

Morpheme and root are two different things; while morpheme refers to the smallest unit of language with meaning, root can be analyzed from complex words. A root refers to a word's primary or main morpheme, which can be found in words with affixes, and when a root is combined with affixes, it is

called a stem (Fromkin et al. (2014). To differentiate a root and stem, see the following table:

Table 6.1. Words, Root, and Stem

Words	Root	Stem
Books	Book	Book+s
Environmentally	Environ	Environ+ment Environ+ment+al Environ+ment+al+ly
Entertainment	Enter	Enter+tain Enter+tain+ment
Unthinkable	Think	Think+able Un+think_able

In Table 6.1 above, we may know the difference between root and stem. The root is the main word; the stem may refer to the root + affixes. Fromkin et al. (2014) argue that a root can or cannot stand alone, for example, in the word *conceive* (the root of this word is *-ceive*).

6.3. RULES OF ENGLISH WORDS

The general idea of a tree diagram may be reflected through phrases and sentences. However, before describing how phrases and sentences are formed, we must initially grasp the general notion of word formation. When we discuss word formation, there are two important terms, namely inflection and derivation. Experts such as Fromkin et al. (2014) and Kridalaksana (2008) relate the terms to word classes or categories. If affixes attach to a basic word (or you may call it root), and that word changes about its word classes or categories (forming a new word), then it is a derivation, whereas if it is not, it is inflection.

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## **CHAPTER 7**

### **GENERATIVE GRAMMAR**

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#### **7.1. INTRODUCTION TO GENERATIVE GRAMMAR**

Generative grammar is a framework for describing and understanding the structure of language, which was developed by Noam Chomsky in the 1950s and 1960s. At its core, generative grammar posits that language is innate to humans and that our ability to learn and use language is hardwired into our brains. A generative grammar is a set of rules that generate all of the grammatical sentences of a particular language. These rules specify the structure of sentences, including the order of words, the relationships between different parts of a sentence, and the grammatical categories that words belong to. The rules of a generative grammar are typically represented as a set of phrase structure rules, which describe how phrases are constructed from smaller units, and a set of transformational rules, which describe how phrases can be moved or rearranged (Yusuf, T., & Syaifullah, A. R.:2024).

Generative grammar has had a significant impact on the field of linguistics and has been influential in the development of other linguistic theories, such as Chomsky's theory of universal grammar and government and binding theory. It has also been applied in the field of natural language processing, where it has been used to develop algorithms for parsing and generating natural language text.

There are several different schools of thought within generative grammar, including transformational-generative

grammar, government and binding theory, and minimalism. Each of these approaches has its own set of rules and assumptions, but they all share the goal of providing a formal, systematic account of the structure of language.

## **7.2. CORE CONCEPTS OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR**

Generative Grammar, primarily developed by Noam Chomsky, revolutionized linguistic theory by emphasizing the idea that language is governed by a set of internalized rules that generate all possible grammatical sentences in a language. Below are the core concepts of this theory (Sriwulandari, N., Hermansyah, S., Sadapotto, A., Saputri, T., Sarinauli, B., Syarif, A. R., ... & Buhari):

1. Competence vs. Performance
  - a) Competence refers to a speaker's implicit knowledge of their language, including the rules of syntax, morphology, and phonology.
  - b) Performance refers to the actual use of language in real-life situations, which may include errors, hesitations, and other non-grammatical elements.
  - c) Chomsky's distinction emphasizes that competence is the idealized capacity of a speaker, while performance can be influenced by memory limitations, distractions, and other factors.

### **Example:**

Competence involves knowing that "**The cat chased the mouse**" is correct and "**Chased the mouse the cat**" is incorrect, even if performance might include occasional slips or errors.

2. Deep Structure vs. Surface Structure
  - a) Deep Structure represents the underlying syntactic organization of a sentence, reflecting its fundamental meaning.

## **7.7. CONCLUSION**

Generative Grammar, as pioneered by Noam Chomsky, provides a powerful framework for understanding the nature of language. Its core concepts, such as deep vs. surface structure, phrase structure rules, and transformational rules, illustrate how sentences are generated from an underlying structure. The theory emphasizes that language is governed by a finite set of rules capable of producing an infinite number of sentences, highlighting the creativity of human language. Chomsky's distinction between competence and performance underscores the difference between knowing the grammatical rules of a language and the actual use of language in real-world situations. Additionally, the theory of Universal Grammar suggests that all humans share an innate ability to acquire language, with specific parameters set by individual languages. The concept of recursion and the minimalist program further refine how language can be both complex and economical in its structure. In conclusion, generative grammar has reshaped our understanding of linguistic theory, offering deep insights into the universal principles underlying all human languages. It reveals that, despite surface variations, all languages share a common structure rooted in the cognitive abilities of the human mind. Through this approach, we gain a better understanding of how language works, how it is acquired, and how it can be explained through a systematic set of rules and transformations.

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## **CHAPTER 8**

### **FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR**

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#### **8.1. INTRODUCTION**

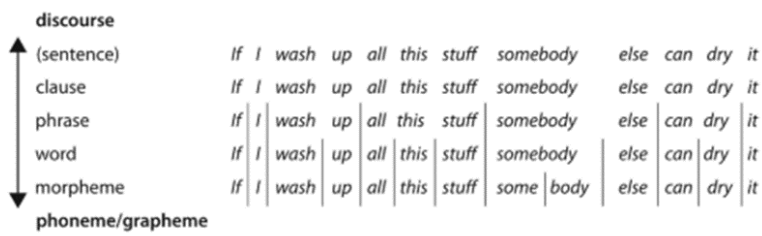
Until now, we can claim that there are only three approaches to analyzing English sentence structure. The three approaches, the first is Generative Grammar promoted by Chomsky around 1957. Next, Ronald Langacker's Cognitive Grammar launched around the 1970s (Giovanelli et al., 2020), and the most phenomenal was Halliday's Functional Grammar (Finch, 2005) approach in the 1980s. Kertesz et al (2019) view Chomsky's Syntactic Structures can be regarded as the foundation of Generative Grammar. As one of the fundamental model ideas of the theoretical component of Generative Grammar, grammar is assumed to be a finite set of (recursive) rules by which an infinite set of well-formed sentences can be generated (assumption of generativity).

As a part of human language structure, Cognitive Grammar becomes a theoretical framework for describing language structure as a product of cognition and social interaction (Langacker, 2013). Additionally, grammar allows us to construct and symbolize the more elaborate meanings of complex expressions (like phrases, clauses, and sentences). It is thus an essential aspect of the conceptual apparatus through which we apprehend and engage the world. And instead of being a distinct and self-contained cognitive system, grammar is not only an integral part of cognition but also a key to understanding it (Langacker, 2008).

Functional Grammar more focuses on how language works, how language creates meaning (Coffin et al., 2009). In our daily activities, we are always side by side with expressions like: Stop!, Take it!, or We are ready to serve you. These expressions take the form of single word, phrase and clause which are the focus of Functional Grammar analysis which of course looks more in terms of meaning. The formal sentence form, in the form of subject and predicate, seems to be overlooked in Halliday's concept. Halliday's Functional grammar tries to combine the concepts of generative and cognitive grammar. This means that humans as communicators can be creative in communicating their goals. This chapter deals with a comprehensive analysis of morphosyntax in Functional Grammar. The topics cover concepts of morphosyntax, functional grammar analysis, and metaphorical grammar.

## 8.2. MORPHOSYNTAX IN RELATION TO FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

Basically, morphosyntax is a model for understanding English sentence structure in the form of a cross between word structure (morphology) and phrase or clause structure (syntax) (Croft, 2022). For easier understanding, we can explain it as follows.



Morphologically, the smallest meaningful unit of above structure is in the forms of lexical words. The areas of syntax are

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## **CHAPTER 9**

### **RELATED THEORIES OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR**

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#### **9.1. INTRODUCTION**

Language is a complex system that has intrigued scholars for centuries. Language is a systematic tool of communication that is structured and consisting of sounds, words, and grammar to convey meaning in human interaction. Language is like a special gift for human that is not given to other creatures in the world. It is due to human capacity of thinking with mental system in their brain that functions in processing the language. The language processed by human brain is not restricted to one type of language, but also multiple types of languages along with its complex linguistic system. Not only mental system, human is given the physical instruments as well to help them producing and receiving the linguistic patterns.

In terms of linguistic patterns, theories of grammar serve as tools to unravel the underlying structures and functions of language. Grammar is the set of rules that governs how language elements (words, phrases, clauses) are structured to form meaningful sentences (Chomsky, 1965). Technically, grammar is a subset of language focusing on syntax (sentence structure), morphology (word formation), phonology (sounds), and semantics or meaning (Chomsky, 1957). Grammar can be studied from different sides of lens or perspectives. Among these, generative grammar and functional grammar stands as

two prominent paradigms, offering distinct perspectives on language studies (Xiao, 2017).

Generative grammar, pioneered by Noam Chomsky, emphasizes the innate syntactic structures of language. It seeks to uncover the universal principles that govern all human languages and explains how these principles are instantiated in individual languages (Macapaz et al., 2024). This approach has significantly influenced the study of syntax, psycholinguistics, and language acquisition (Alsubai'ai, 2021; Hakim, 2019). Chomsky's popular theory of Universal Grammar (UG) remains a foundational concept in understanding the innate capacities of human language and grammar acquisition.

In contrast, Functional Grammar (FG), found by Simon Dik and developed by Michael Halliday, focuses on language as a tool for communication. It examines how grammatical choices are shaped by context and the communicative needs of speakers (Butler, 2017). Functional grammar integrates syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, making it particularly relevant for sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and text analysis.

This article aims to provide a systematic literature review of these theories, covering their historical roots, theoretical constructs, and practical applications. The discussion emphasizes key dimensions of analysis, contrasts between the two approaches, and their implications for linguistic research and ELT. By synthesizing insights from foundational texts and recent studies, this review offers an academic resource for linguists, practitioners, and educators alike. This article provides an in-depth exploration of two major linguistic theories: generative grammar and functional grammar. It delves into their historical evolution, theoretical frameworks, and dimensions of analysis, highlighting their application in linguistic research and English Language Teaching (ELT).

providing varied tools and perspectives for the theoretical and practical study of language.

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## **CHAPTER 10**

### **CASE STUDY**

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#### **Morphosyntax Through Pedagogical Grammar: A Research Guide For Educators And Linguists**

##### **10.1. INTRODUCTION**

Morphosyntax and pedagogical grammar are two key ideas in linguistics and language education, both playing an important role in comprehending and teaching language structures. Morphosyntax is a mix of morphology (the study of word forms and structure) and syntax (Haspelmath, 2011). Morphosyntax investigates how grammatical elements such as tense, agreement, word order, and inflection influence the form of sentences in any language (Dufter & Stark, 2017). Linguists obtain deeper insights into the principles regulating language by studying morphosyntactic patterns, and educators can use these insights to improve language teaching approaches. For both linguists and educators, a solid understanding of morphosyntax serves as the foundation for assessing how languages work and developing effective teaching approaches that stress the role of grammar in communication (Croft, 2022).

In contrast, pedagogical grammar is intended to meet the demands of language learners and educators. In contrast to descriptive grammar, which focuses on how language is used in everyday circumstances, pedagogical grammar aims to simplify and organize grammatical principles in a way that learners can understand (Bordón, 2018). It promotes clarity and

functionality, ensuring that learners can effectively communicate using grammatical concepts. Pedagogical grammar frequently involves explanations of morphosyntactic aspects that language learners must comprehend, such as verb conjugations, sentence structure, and the usage of articles and prepositions (Alduais, 2012). To help children gain language proficiency, educators must be able to describe these morphosyntactic aspects in the classroom.

These themes are relevant to both educators and linguists because of their interconnectivity. Understanding morphosyntax enables educators to create better structured and efficient lesson plans that teach grammar in relevant, context-driven ways. This, in turn, enhances student results by allowing students to internalize grammatical structures and use them in real-world communication (Abrar-Ul-Hassan, 2011). For linguists, morphosyntax is a critical area of research that provides insights into the deeper structure of language (Belletti & Guasti, 2015). Linguists help us comprehend language universals and typology by examining how morphosyntactic rules differ among languages. This research can then be applied to teaching techniques using pedagogical grammar.

To investigate how morphosyntax and pedagogical grammar can be integrated into research, this guide will undertake a literature review, concentrating on how existing studies and resources might be used. A literature review is the process of obtaining, assessing, and summarizing prior research on morphosyntax and its function in pedagogical grammar, making it an excellent starting point for both educators trying to improve their teaching techniques and linguists interested in the theoretical aspects of grammar (Cronin, Ryan, & Coughlan, 2008; Rowley & Slack, 2004). A comprehensive assessment of relevant sources allows academics to discover trends, gaps, and

pedagogical approaches, and synthesize research findings into practical teaching methods. By analyzing the effectiveness of different instructional strategies and considering the needs of students at various proficiency levels, the study highlights how theory can be translated into actionable classroom practices. Furthermore, the research underscores the importance of applying these insights in both teaching and further linguistic studies. The synthesis of pedagogical grammar resources with morphosyntactic theory allows for the development of targeted, research-based strategies that improve language instruction and contribute to the broader understanding of second language acquisition. By applying these methods in classroom settings and using them to generate new research questions, this study offers valuable contributions to both language education and linguistic theory. Ultimately, the findings aim to bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical teaching, fostering more effective learning experiences for students.

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# A KEY CONCEPT OF ENGLISH MORPHOSYNTAX

- CHAPTER 1 : The Meaning and Concept of English Morphosyntax**  
Amelia Meidhiatiningsih
- CHAPTER 2 : The Classification of English Morphosyntactic**  
Putri Ana Nurani
- CHAPTER 3 : English Morphemes**  
Ratna Sari Dewi
- CHAPTER 4 : Affixes**  
Abdulloh
- CHAPTER 5 : Parts Of Speech**  
Cattleya Wahyu Pravitha
- CHAPTER 6 : Tree Diagram in English Syntax**  
Indra Nugraha
- CHAPTER 7 : Generative Grammar**  
Maulana Teguh Perdana
- CHAPTER 8 : Functional Grammar**  
Aswir
- CHAPTER 9 : Related Theories of Generative Grammar and Functional Grammar**  
Irma Wahyuni
- CHAPTER 10 : Case Study**  
Aditya Eko Adrianto



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