ESSENTIALS OF ENGLISH TRANSFORMATIONAL SYNTAX
By Andrzej Kaznowski. Pp. 359. Warszawa, Państwowe Wydewnictwo
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After more then 20 years of the develompent of TG, during
which a considerable number of articles and books have been
published, the first Polish introductory textbook on English
syntax within the transformational-generative framework has
been edited. Kaznowski undertook this difficult task of writing
a modified textbook for students since the need for it arose
simultaneously with the introduction of the course in TG into
the English curriculum at the university level.

It is not easy to wite an original textbook on English syn-
tax within the transformational-generative framework, firstly,
because the transformational-generative approach to language
has not developed into a consistent theory yet. There are ma-
ny proposals, very often contradictory, which make it diffi-
cult to propose a uniform treatment of various aspects of gram-
mar. Secondly, a multitude of publications in transformational
approach to linguistic analysis have appeared during the last
20 years.

It seems, however, that in spite of these difficulties
Kaznowski's textbook is a success and the present reviewer ho-
pes to encourage the students of English to consult the book
as a comprehensive, methodical introduction to English TG syn-
tax. The book can be used both in the classroom or privately
as the information it provides is explicit and self-contained.

Essentials of English Transformational Syntax, like many
books on TG, is fundamentally based on Chomsky's Aspects of
the Theory of Syntax /1965/ and on works elaborating and expan-
ding it. The book falls into two parts: /I/ theoretical consi-
derations and /II/ syntactic structures. These two parts are
preceded by an inventory of symbols and notational conventions,
and followed by concluding remarks, a sample test, and inven-
tory of rules. Every chapter is accompanied by a set of exer-
cises and a list of further readings, which is important from

the methodological point. Doing the exercises, students check whether they have understood the topics discussed, and the immediate feedback enables them to remember the material. Most of the exercises, however, go beyond the discussed material, which encourages the students to use other sources. The suggested readings help in the search for sources containing detailed discussion of the issues in question.

Part One: Theoretical Considerations.

Chapter I - A Transformational View of Language: presents a comprehensive discussion of the major theoretical concepts of transformational linguistics. The notions 'grammar', 'competence' and 'performance', 'grammaticality' and 'acceptability', 'deep structure' and 'surface structure', 'ambiguity' and 'paraphrase' are discussed, as well as the organization of the transformational model of grammar and the goals of transformational linguistics. This chapter serves as an introduction to the structure of TG.

Chapter II - Syntactic Preliminaries: contains the general characterization of the transformational framework employed in the analysis of English sentences. To be more precise, it is devoted to the discussion of the syntactic component, which is the most significant part of the framework accepted in the analysis. The basic grammatical units such as 'sentence', 'phrase', 'word', and 'morpheme' are characterized. The first section of this chapter is concerned with the functions of PSR's and lexicon. A simplified set of PSR's generating simple sentences and a lexicon of eleven items serve as the basis for presenting the semantic and syntactic features in grammar. The rest of the chapter is devoted to the discussion of PSR's and TR's, contrasting them and listing their basic differences.

Part Two: Syntactic Structures.

Chapter III - Descriptive Devices of Grammar: deals with grammatical units, classes, categories and functions. The material provided in this chapter is essential to the understanding of how language is structured. The students learn how every sentence should be described in a formal way.

Chapter IV - The Simple Sentence: expounds the processes of sentence formation. The definition of a simple sentence is provided and the basic sentence patterns of English are discussed. Kaznowski introduces, after Quirk et al /1972/, seven basic structures. The distinction is based on the surface structures of sentences and not on the deep structures. The principles underlying the formation of the basic patterns of predication are formulated in rules.

Chapter V - The Noun Phrase: deals with the elements that make up a NP, i.e., determiners, personal pronouns, and adjectives. The last of the elements is explored in a detailed way. Kaznowski discusses different types of adjectives, but not all are labelled. He also describes their characteristics and the sources from which they derive. Some space is devoted to prove that a complex NP comprises a relative clause in the underlying structure functioning as a postmodifier of the head noun on the surface.

Chapter VI - The Verb: is concerned with the English tense, aspect, and modals. Worth mentioning is a very clear presentation of the relationship between tense and modals, and the particle/ preposition distinction for phrasal verbs.

Chapter VII - Syntactic Transformations: aims to show how much information, and of what kind, is necessary to produce correct sentences. The author discusses all the transformational roles that must be applied to generate simple sentences, questions imperatives - and negative and passive sentences. Each section introduces a new transformation and provides the following information:
1/ the underlying structure the transformation operates on
2/ the conditions pertaining to the application of the rule
3/ formulation of the rule
4/ application of the rule and examples.

In view of the fact that question transformation is a troublesome problem for TG grammarians, Kaznowski describes two approaches to the formation of yes/no questions ans presents strong arguments against the one in which the yes/no question is formed by the reduction of a compound sentence.

Some important issues are touched upon in the section devo-
ted to passivization. First of all, Kaznowski introduces the idea
of cognitive meaning, which explains the relation between active
ans passive sentences. Secondly, he describes some restrictions
imposed on the application of the rules of passivization.

After reading the chapter, the students get quite a clear
picture of how simple sentences, questions, imperatives, negati-
ve and passive sentences are derived.

Chapter VIII - Complex Sentences: is concerned with the three
main kinds of complex sentences, i.e., sentences with subordina-
te nominal clauses, sentences with subordinate relative clauses,
and sentences with subordinate adverbial clauses. This chapter
designates which PSR´s and TR´s are applied to generate complex
sentences. A discussion of the factors that affect the deriva-
tion of complex sentences with nominal clauses is also provided.
To be more precise, the distribution of the three types of com-
plementizers and the content of the auxiliary is surveyed.

In the section on restrictive relative clauses, the syntactic
character of the relative pronouns having the same form as the
interrogative pronouns and the word ´that´ are discussed, as
are the structures of relative clauses and the transformations
that operate on them.

The discussion of the adverbial clauses concentrates on the
transformations that operate on the clauses and the problem of
reduction of various constituents of these clauses.

Chapter IX - Compound Sentences: presents the way of deriving
conjoined sentences and the transformations that are applied to
form compound sentences.

Chapter X - Pronominalization and Comperative
Constructions: deals with two of the basic syntactic processes,
i.e., pronominalization and comparative constructions. Two rules
of pronominalization are formulated and the structural conditions
under which they are applied are presented. As far as comparati-
ve constructions are concerned, two entirely different approaches
to them are discussed and the inaccuracy of the first one is
shown.

The book under review serves as an introduction to the gene-

ral theory of transformational syntax. There are, however, some shortcomings, a fact which is not hidden by the author. These shortcomings are understandable as it is necessary to restrict somehow the amount and variety of information that a book about essentials can reasonably handle.

Nevertheless, from the methodological view point it would have been desirable to include a short description of the organization of the Standard Model of Grammar /Chomsky, 1965/. A beginner may have problems with reading the diagram I.25, which shows how the Standard Model is organized[1]. The description of how the model works could have been done in the same way as in Thomas and Kintgen /1974:77/, who put down in five points the five steps necessary in constructing a derivation based on the 'Aspects' model. It would not have taken much space and would have been of great help for students. As it stands there is room for doubt and the possibility of failure in comprehending the issue in question unless the students find the information in some other source.

The other shortcoming can be found in the first section of Chapter III. Under the heading 'Grammatical Units' the basic devices of grammar are discussed. An utterance is mentioned as being one of the units, and is defined after Lyons /1968/ as 'an uninterrupted sequence of sentences produces by one speaker' /Kaznowski, 1980:39/. No more space is devoted to the concept whereas the other units are discussed at length. In my opinion, the author should have explained to the reader why a sentence is used as the basic element of his investigations, rather than an utterance. I shall refrain from doing that and from arguing this definition of an utterance as these matters are discussed at length elsewhere[2].

Out of the discussion of disjuncts has arisen the problem of derivating the answers to yes/no questions containing disjuncts. It is proved that disjuncts are represented in the deep structure as sentence modifiers. But the deep structure of the answers to yes/no questions is an area of speculation to the student.

In the section 8.2.1., where the subordinate sentences are discussed, it is said that syntactic Imp and Emph markers are not present in the subordinate sentences, whereas Q and Neg markers are there. This conclusion imlies that PSR I is not propely formulated[3]. No attempt is made to solve the problem. If TG does not offer any solution to this problem, there should at least be a footnote under the inventory of rules indicating the restriction of usage of PSR I.

Finally, a shortcoming can be found in the section on clauses. Kaznowski deals with all kinds of clauses but he fails to deal with the derivation of clauses beginning with wh-words.

To sum up the discussion of the book under review, let me add that the overall picture of the English syntax would be more complete if such syntactic topics like topicalization, cleft, and pseudocleft sentences received more attention.

In general, the overall description of English syntax is certainly well done and, as such, escapes serious criticism. The mentioned shortcomings, admittedly to a degree subjective, by no means lower the value of Kaznowski's book and the present reviewer encourages students and teachers to consult the book. The instructions are clear and simple enough for students inexperienced in TG to follow. The content and the sequencing of the content qualify the book as a very useful handbook for introductory courses in TG. Credit must be given to the author for discussing the problems that TG cannot explain at present and for presenting more than one approach to the controversial issues. The fact that he does not offer any ad hoc solutions encourages the students to try to find answers to the presented problems. It should also be added that the author provied relevant examples for every problem discussed in the book.

NOTES

[1] Kaznowski A., 1980, p.34

[2] See Danes F./1974:15/, Baker C.L./1978:10-14/,to name a few

[3] The rule says: /Kaznowski, 1980:341/:

$$S \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} S \left(\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{and} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{but} \end{array} \right\} S \right)^n \\ \left(\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{IMP EMPH} \\ Q \end{array} \right\} \right) \text{ /Neg/ NP SM Pred p} \end{array} \right\}$$

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