

LECTURES

THEORETICAL GRAMMAR

Module 1

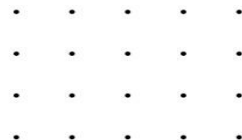


Grammar in general is a
branch of linguistics which
deals with the grammatical
structure of the language.
Grammar rules organize a
chain of words into a phrase
and a sentence.



Grammar: the origin of the term

The term *grammar* is derived from the Greek word *grammatikē*, where *gram* meant something written. *tikē* derives from *technē* and meant art. Hence *grammatikē* is the art of writing



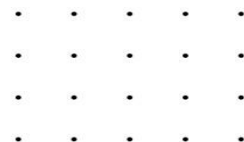
Grammar: the historical development

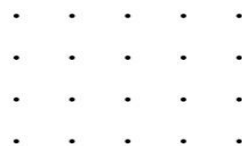


In ancient Greece and ancient Rome the term
'grammar' denoted
the whole apparatus of literary study



1 - “the set of formal patterns in which the words of a language are arranged in order to convey larger meanings.”





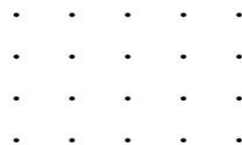
«Глокая куздра штеко будланула бокра и
курдячит бокрёнка»

«Кудматая бокра штеко будланула
тукастенъкого бокрёночка»

Лев Владимирович Щерба

**The iggle squiggs trazed
wombly in the harlish hoop**

Henry Gleason Jr.



Woggles ugged diggles

Charles Fries

**'Twas brillig, and the
slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble
in the wabe;
All mumsy were the
borogoves,
And the mome raths
outgrabe**

(L.Carroll)

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Translations

Варкалось. Хливкие
шорьки
Пырялись по наве,
И хрюкотали зелюки,
Как мюмзики в мове.
(Н.Демурова)

Сверкалось. Скойкие сюды
Волчились у развел.
Дрожали в лужасе грозды,
И крюх засвирепел. (Вл.
Орел)

Чайнело... Мильные бокры
Юлись и дрырлись к поросе,
И глокой куздры развихры
Курдячились по белесе.

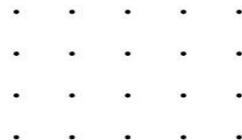
— Л.Кэрролл. Алиса за зеркалом.
Пер. Е. Клюева

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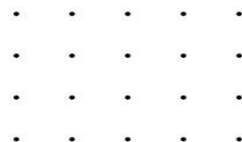
2 - etiquette

The word “grammar” to the ordinary person in English speaking countries has the meaning of “good or bad English”.





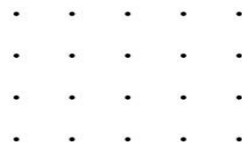
**3 - the branch of linguistic science
which is concerned with the
description, analysis, and
formularization of formal language
patterns**





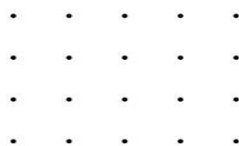
**So the 3 meanings of the term
“grammar” are:**

**Grammar I – a form of behavior;
Grammar II – a branch of etiquette;
Grammar III - a field of study, a science.**



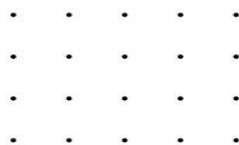
The actual definition of grammar

- If we wish to learn to speak and write, we will focus on the system of rules that underlie a given language
- **Practical Grammar**
- If we wish to describe the structure of a language, we will focus on the units that make up the language and their relations,
- if we wish to understand how speakers of a given language produce and understand sentences, we will focus on the nature of the rules used.
- **Theoretical Grammar**



Grammar: the historical development

- The first grammar of English, *Bref Grammar for English*, written by William Bullokar, was published in 1585.
- The most influential grammar of English (published in 1762) was R. Lowth's *Short Introduction to English Grammar*. It started the age of prescriptive grammar.
- To a prescriptive grammarian, grammar is rules of correct usage; its aim was to prescribe what is judged to be correct rather than to describe actual usage.
- A new, modern understanding of grammar appeared only by the end of the 19th century, when the period of scientific (descriptive) grammar began.



Grammar: the historical development

Pāṇini [4th century BCE] is known for his Sanskrit grammar, particularly for his formulation of the 3,959 rules-of Sanskrit morphology, syntax and semantics, in the grammar known as *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, meaning "eight chapters".

His theory of morphological analysis was more advanced than any equivalent Western theory before the mid 20th century.



A 17th century birch bark manuscript of Panini's grammar treatise from Kashmir

Traditional Grammar in Ancient Rome

The first Latin grammar was written by Varro (116–27 B.C.). One of Varro's merits is the distinction between **derivation** and **inflection**. Varro set up the following system of four inflexionally contrasting classes:

- 1) those with case inflexion (nouns including adjectives);
- 2) those with tense inflexion (verbs);
- 3) those with case and tense inflexion (participles);
- 4) those with neither (adverb).



Grammar: the historical development

Latin Grammars in English Schools

Until the end of the sixteenth century, the only grammars used in English schools were Latin grammars.

The aim was to teach the English to read, write and sometimes converse in this lingua franca of Western Europe.

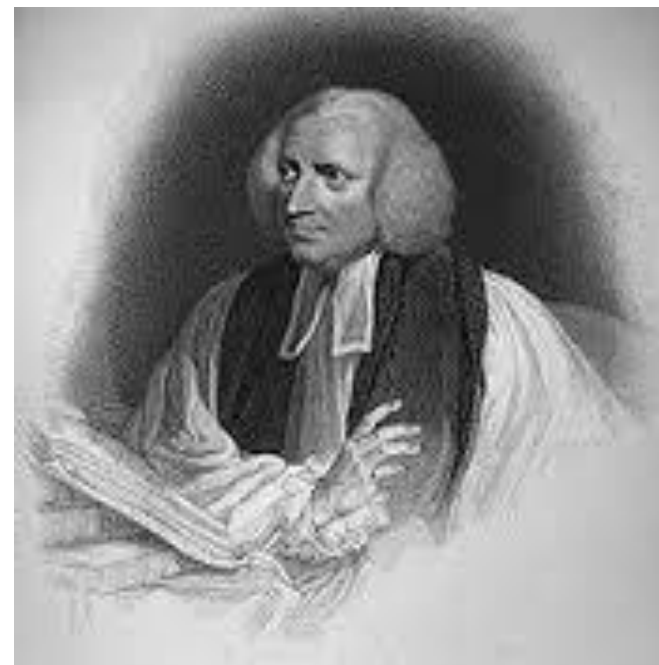
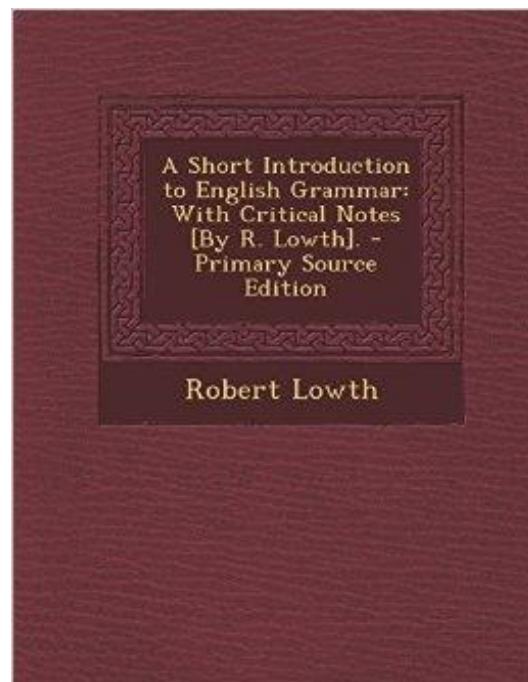


One of the earliest and most popular Latin grammars written in English was William Lily's grammar, published in the first half of the 16th century. It was an aid to learning Latin, and it rigorously followed Latin models.

The First English Grammar

The first grammars of English were
prescriptive, not descriptive.

The most influential grammar of this period was **R.Lowth's**
Short Introduction to English Grammar (1762).



The Features of Prescriptive Grammar

- 1) patterning after Latin in classifying words into word classes and establishing grammatical categories;
- 2) reliance on meaning and function in definitions;
- 3) approach to correctness: the standards of correctness are logic, which was identified with Latin past;
- 4) emphasis on writing rather than on speech.

Prescriptive grammarians could be called the first standardizers of English.

Unfortunately, their 'standardization' work was often based on subjective criteria and other languages.

However, those works written in the prescriptive era which did not ignore actual usage paved the way to Standard English, which has today become an objective standard for correct English.

Those grammarians who adhere to the norms of Standard English (the English of government, education, broadcasting, news publishing, and other public discourse) are also prescriptivists in a good sense.

Non-Structural Descriptive Grammar in Summary

Henry Sweet was the first
to introduce the term scientific grammar
meaning reliance on facts and the use of the
inductive method.
to undermine the old tradition in linguistic studies
where the function of grammar was to prescribe
what is judged to be correct rather than describe
actual usage.
His followers: Curme, and Jespersen.



1. Unlike prescriptivists, descriptivists focus their attention on actual usage without trying “to settle the relative correctness of divergent usages”;
2. Descriptivists rely on the English of the best authors of their day as well as the English of the past. To them, change in language is not associated with corruption;
3. Similar to prescriptivists, descriptivists use meaning and function in their definition of parts of speech.



Structural Descriptive Grammar in Summary

The father of American structuralism is generally called **Leonard Bloomfield**, in his book *Language* he presented the new approach

“The study of language can be conducted...only so long as we pay no attention to the meaning of what is spoken” (1933)

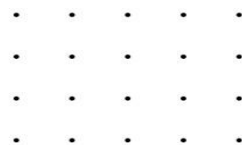
To structuralists, language

- is a highly organized affair,
- where the smaller units are built into larger units, which in turn are built into larger ones, until the largest unit is reached.
- Such building-blocks are ***phonemes*** and ***morphemes***.
- The structures that we build out of the ‘bricks’ are ***lexemes***.
- Lexemes serve to build the largest unit, the sentence, i.e. ***the predicative unit***.

Is to study the structure of a language as objectively as possible, without reference to meaning and other languages. They focused their attention on structural, i.e. grammatical, meaning

English was regarded as a language having its specific structure

The structuralists based their conclusions on the analysis of sentences that they had collected from native speakers of English, giving priority to Spoken English.



Structural Descriptive Grammar in Summary

Structural grammarians used **formal**
methods of linguistic analysis

immediate constituent,

distribution,

substitution,

transformation

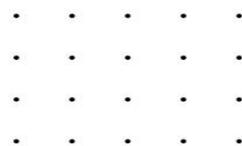
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Transformational – Generative Grammar

- The transformational-generative grammarian is interested in possible sentences, i.e. The speaker's-hearer's knowledge of a language (competence), rather than in his actual use of it (performance).
- There are two types of transformational-generative grammar: 1) the Harris – Chomsky grammar and 2) the Chomsky grammar.
 - A language consists of a limited number of **kernel** sentences (i.e. structurally the most simple sentences), and their **transforms**, i.e. structures derived from them.
 - Kernel sentences are generated by the use of the IC model.
 - The set of rules showing how a sentence is generated is called **rewrite rules**, or **rewriting rules**.



The man hit the ball.

- This sentence is generated by the application of the following rules:
- 1) Sentence NP + VP
- 2) NP T (a determiner) + N
- 3) T the
- 4) N man
- 5) VP V + NP
- 6) V hit
- 7) NP T + N
- 8) T the
- 9) N ball

N. Chomsky (1962),

- distinguished two levels of the sentence – *surface* and *deep*.
- A **deep structure** is a structure generated only by phrase-structure rules and lexical rules, e.g. *not John past can sing well*.
- A deep structure that has been transformed into a grammatical English sentence is called a **surface structure**, e.g. *John could not sing well*.

The theory of Immediate Constituents (IC)

was originally elaborated as an attempt to determine the ways in which lexical units are relevantly related to one another. It was discovered that combinations of such units are usually structured into hierarchically arranged sets of binary constructions.

For example: ***a black dress in severe style***

The fundamental aim of IC analysis is to segment a set of lexical units into two maximally independent sequences

successive segmentation results in Ultimate Constituents (UC):

a | black | dress | in | severe | style
fat major's wife

· · · · ·
· · **Theory of oppositions. Types of oppositions.**
· · **Oppositions in morphology**
· · · · ·

- ❑ **generalized** correlation of lingual forms by means of which a certain function is expressed. The correlated elements (members) of the opposition must possess two types of features: common features and differential features.
- ❑ qualitative types of oppositions established in phonology:

privative, gradual, and equipollent

By the number of members contrasted, oppositions were divided into **binary and more than binary**

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Binary privative opposition

is formed by a contrastive pair of members in which one member is characterized by the presence of a certain differential feature (strong, marked, positive), while the other member is characterized by the absence of the feature (weak, unmarked, negative).

Eg. voiced vs. devoiced consonants

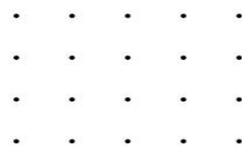
Gradual opposition

is formed by a contrastive group of members which are distinguished not by the presence or absence of a feature, but by the degree of it

Equipollent opposition

is formed by a contrastive pair or group in which the members are distinguished by different positive features

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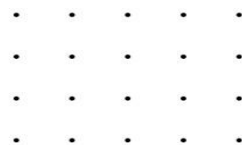


privative morphological opposition

is based on a morphological differential feature which is present in its strong member and absent in its weak member (eg. present – past).

Reduction of oppositions:

- neutralization
- transposition



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Distributional analysis. Morphemic analysis. IC-analysis

Distribution is the occurrence of a lexical unit relative to other lexical units of the same level (words relative to words / morphemes relative to morphemes).

In the distributional analysis at the morphemic level, phonemic distribution of morphemes and morphemic distribution of morphemes are discriminated.

Contrastive and non-contrastive distribution concern identical environments of different morphs.

The morphemic analysis is a process of singling out morphs in a word and stating their meaning.

Historical Types of Grammars

traditional [prescriptive and non-structural
descriptive]

structural descriptive

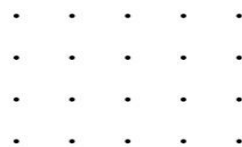
transformational-generative

Modern linguistics is essentially based on the systemic conception of language. System in general is defined as a structured set of elements related to one another by a common function.

The systemic nature of grammar. Language and speech.

Human language is a verbal means of communication; its function consists in forming, storing and exchanging ideas as reflections of reality. Being inseparably connected with the people who create and use it, language is social and psychological by nature

(Blokh, 2000).



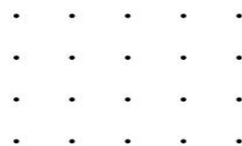
Language incorporates three constituent parts.

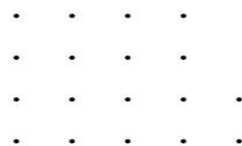
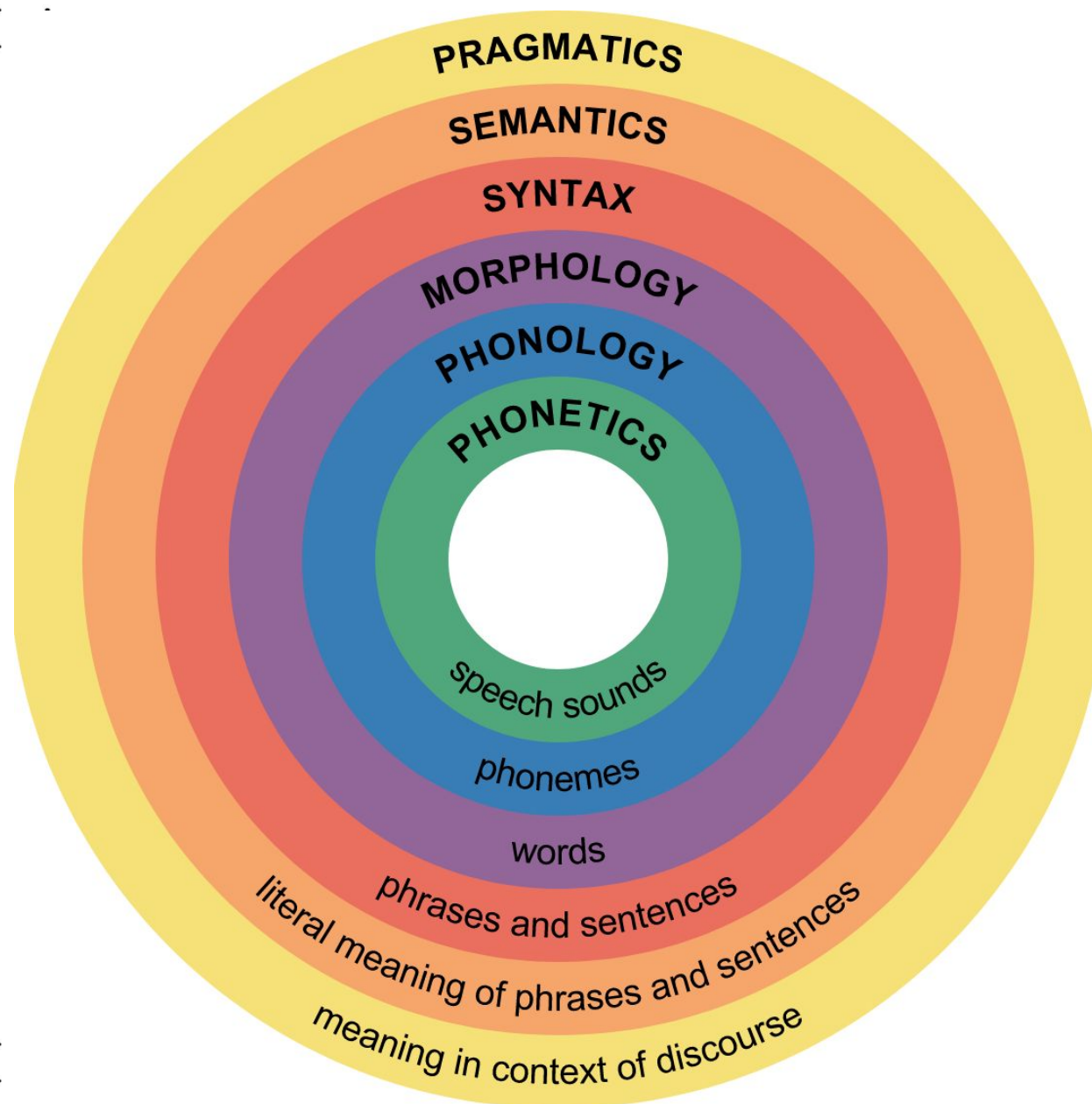
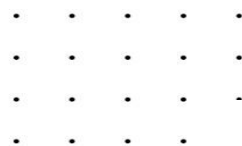
- the phonological system
 - the lexical system
- the grammatical system

The phonological system determines the material (phonetic) form of its significative units;

the lexical system comprises the whole set of nominative means of language [words and stable word-groups];

the grammatical system presents the whole set of regularities determining the combination of nominative units in the formation of utterances
[Blok, 2000]





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**The interpretation of language as a system
develops a number of notions, namely:**

- **language levels**
- **language units**
- **paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations**
- **the notions of form and meaning (function)**
- **synchrony and diachrony**
-
- **analysis and synthesis, etc.**

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**The discrimination of language and speech is the
fundamental principle of linguistics.**

**This principle has sustained throughout the whole
history of the study of language.**

**With a special demonstrative force it was confirmed
by I.A. Beaudoin de Courtenay (end of the XIX c.) and
F. de Saussure (beginning of the XX c.) who analyzed
the language-speech dichotomy in connection with
the problem of identifying the subject of linguistics.**

**The two great scholars emphatically pointed out
the difference between synchrony and diachrony
stressing the fact that at any stage of its historical
evolution language is a synchronic system of
meaningful elements, i.e. a system of special signs**

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Language vs Speech (verbal behaviour)

Saussure made what became a famous distinction between *langue* (language) and *parole* (speech, or verbal behaviour).

Language, for Saussure, is the symbolic system through which we communicate. Speech refers to actual utterances. Since we can communicate an infinite number of utterances, it is the system behind them that is important, this is the primary object of study for the linguist.

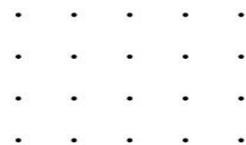
According to F. de Saussure, there is *langue* versus *parole*. By *langue*, best translated in its technical Saussurean sense as language system, is meant the totality of regularities and patterns of formation that underlie the utterances of a language; by *parole*, which can be translated as language behaviour, is meant the actual utterances themselves



The impact of Saussure's ideas on the development of linguistic theory in the first half of the twentieth century cannot be understated. Two currents of thought emerged independently of each other, one in Europe, and the other in America.

The results of each incorporated the basic notions of Saussurian thought in forming the central tenets of structural linguistics.

The most important of the various schools of structural linguistics to be found in Europe in the first half of the 20th century included the Prague school, most notably represented by Nikolay Sergeyevich Trubetskoy and Roman Jakobson, both Russian émigrés, and the Copenhagen (or glossematic) school, centred around Louis Hjelmslev



Syntagmatic vs paradigmatic relations

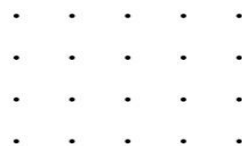
Lingual units stand to one another in two fundamental types of relations: syntagmatic and paradigmatic.

Syntagmatic relations are immediate linear relations between units in a segmental sequence (string).

One of the basic notions in the syntagmatic analysis is the notion of syntactic syntagma.

A "syntactic syntagma" is the combination of two words or word-groups one of which is modified by the other.

To syntagmatic relations are opposed **paradigmatic relations**. They exist between elements of the system outside the strings in which they co-occur. The function of a grammatical paradigm is to express a categorial meaning

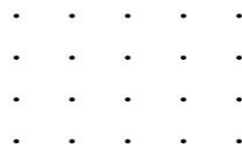


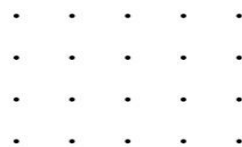
Plane of Content and Plane of Expression

This dichotomy was first studied by Louis Hjelmslev (1899-1965) – Danish linguist, the founder of the Copenhagen School of linguistics.

Together with Hans Uldall he developed a structural theory of language which he called glossematics.

The main interest of glossematics was describing the formal characteristics of the language.





**Grammar consists of two parts:
morphology and syntax.**

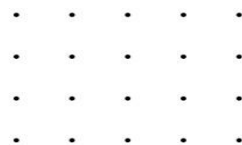
**Morphology is a part of grammar
which deals with the forms of words.**

**Syntax deals with phrases and
sentences and units which are
higher than a sentence.**

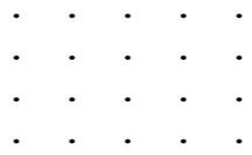
**These parts of grammar are connected
with each other.**

**The connection is shown in the fact
that words don't change when taken
separately.**

**They change only when they are
connected in sentences.**

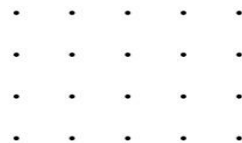


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**Grammar as a branch of linguistic
science studies
the grammatical structure
of a language.**

**The term “*structure*” suggests an
inherent *similarity between all levels* of
linguistic organization.**

**The grammatical structure exists as an
objective reality and does not depend on
the will of people.**

