Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics
Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad

Course: Modern Grammatical Theory

Course Code:5668

Semester: Autumn 2025

Level: MA TEFL

Total Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 40

ASSIGNMENT No: 1

Q.1   Carefully READ Chapter 1 (Definitions and Preliminaries) and explain the following terms with examples: (20)

    a.   Grammar and a particular grammar
    b.   Mental grammar
    c.   Linguistic competence
    d.   Language acquisition device (LAD)
    e.   Rules and principles of human language

Q.2   Define 'Descriptive Grammar' and explain how it is different from 'Prescriptive Grammar' by giving examples from the language of your choice.   (20)

Q.3   Briefly discuss the concept of 'Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG)' given by Chomsky particularly focusing on 'structure description' and T-rules.   (20)

Q. 4   Define 'Universal Grammar (UG)' and explain various types of universals with examples from either Urdu or any other regional language.   (20)

Q. 5   According to Mentalists (mainly Chomsky), human language is always rule-governed. How would you explain this principle, as it applies to language? Please include examples from any two languages (e.g., English and/or Urdu and/or any other languages) to elaborate this principle.   (20)

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ASSIGNMENT No: 2
(Project)

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The second assignment is a project. You are required to study the relevant area, conduct your research and prepare a report on your findings as per given instructions. You will have to submit one copy of the report to your tutor within the scheduled time. The written report should have an introduction, body and conclusion. It should be written in clear, concise and correct English. It should have 2000 to 3000 words. Your assignment will be evaluated in terms of originality of research process (including selection of documentary for Option-1), English language mechanics and clarity of ideas.

You will prepare your project on any **ONE** of the following topics. Your tutor will assign different topics to different students during your classes.

1. Refresh and discuss some of the theories of language learning in the classroom as given by Cook in his article (please refer to the textbook for your course 'Modern Grammatical Theory' code: 5668). On the basis of your understanding of the theories you studied, complete the following TWO steps:

   a. Provide a summary of the basic features of GRAMMAR as given by Cook.
   b. Prepare a lesson plan on the basis of the theories studied and find out its effectiveness in learning a language. Record your observations and share your findings within the class.

---OR---

2. This assignment will have two parts. Part-I will summarize the main features of Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG) and Part-II will be based on your own data and its description. Follow the instructions given below:

   a. Based on your careful reading of the relevant chapters, provide a detailed summary of the Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG).
   b. Record a general conversation (of twenty minutes' duration) between two friends in Urdu.
   c. Now based on your data, describe Urdu Verb Phrase (VP) structure in detail with your examples.

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