GLOSSARY

by DAVID CRYSTAL

A An abbreviation variously used for **adjective, adverbial,** or **argument.**

abbreviation Any of various ways of shortening a word or phrase, e.g. through the use of acronyms *(NATO),* clippings *(ad),* and blends *(brunch).* See **ellipsis.**

A-binding See **Binding Theory.**

ablative An inflectional category of case, often assumed by a noun phrase (typically a single noun or pronoun) to express locational or instrumental meanings. See also **case; inflection 1.**

abrupt release A type of feature recognized within Phonological Feature Theory, where a sound is produced by a sudden emission of air, as in plosive consonants; also called **instantaneous release,** and contrasted with **delayed release.** See also **plosive; release.**

absolute construction A sentence constituent which is isolated or disconnected from the rest of a sentence, such as the Latin 'ablative absolute' construction, or the use of sentence adverbials in English *(However, the train was late).* See also **adverbial.**

absolute universal See **universal.**

absolutive See **ergative.**

abstract In the study of narrative, an optional element which summarizes the whole of a story. See also **narrative.**

accent 1 The combination of phonetic features which identify a person's geographical or social origins (**regional** and **social** accents, respectively). See also **dialect.** 2 A type of perceived syllabic prominence in spoken language, resulting from a contrastive pitch compared with that found in adjacent syllables. **Accented** syllables are opposed to **unaccented** syllables. **Accentuation** is the pattern of relative prominence in a sequence of syllables. See also **stress.** 3 A diacritic symbol in written language, such as the 'acute accent' or 'grave accent', typically placed over a vowel symbol to indicate different sound qualities, syllabic prominence, or other prosodic features.

accentuation See **accent 2.**

acceptability The extent to which linguistic data are judged by native speakers to be possible or normal in their language; utterances are considered to be **acceptable, unacceptable,** or **marginally acceptable.** Unacceptable utterances are usually indicated by a preceding asterisk, and marginally acceptable utterances by a question mark. A formal experiment in which speakers are asked to evaluate utterances is an **acceptability test.** See also **grammaticality.**

accessibility hierarchy In Relational Grammar, a postulated linear series of dependencies between nominal entities, which controls the applicability of syntactic rules. See also **Dependency Grammar; Hierarchy; Relational Grammar.**

accommodation The unconscious alteration of a person's speech, especially in pronunciation, so that it sounds more like or less like the speech of the addressee. See also **matched guise technique.**

accusative 1 An inflectional category of case often assumed by a noun phrase (typically a single noun or pronoun) when it is the object of a verb. See also **case; inflection 1; object.** 2 Characteristic of a construction of language in which the objects of both intransitive and transitive verbs are treated alike; contrasts with **ergative.**

acoustic cues The physical properties of a sound which aid its identification in speech; also known as **acoustic features.** For example, the onset frequency of the second formant during the transition between a consonant and a vowel is critical to the identification of the consonant. In Phonological Feature Theory, such cues offer a primary means of defining the binary oppositions that constitute the phonological system. See also **acoustic phonetics; analysis-by-synthesis; formant; speech perception.**

acoustic domain analog See **speech synthesis.**

acoustic features See **acoustic cues.**

acoustic invariance A proposed characteristic of speech, according to which speech perception operates by virtue of specialized neural mechanisms, tuned so that speakers can extract generalized acoustic patterns corresponding to phonetic dimensions. See also **speech perception.**

acoustic phonetics The study of the sound waves which form the physical link between speaker and hearer. See also **phonetics.**

acquisition The process or result of learning a particular aspect of language, or the language as a whole; used in the context of both **first language learning** (child language acquisition) and **second language learning** (the acquisition of further languages or varieties). Distinctions are sometimes drawn between the 'acquisition' of a rule and its 'development' or further use in an increasingly wide range of situations; and between 'acquisition' viewed as a subconscious, natural process, the primary force behind foreign language fluency, as opposed to 'learning', viewed as a conscious process which monitors the progress of acquisition and guides the performance of the speaker. See also **generalization 2; interlanguage; Language Acquisition Device; overextension; phonetically consistent forms; Semantic Feature Hypothesis.**

acrolect A language variety or lect characterized by prestige or standardization, identifiable in the development of a creole language, and serving as a basis for comparison of other lects. See also **lect.**

actant A semantic role proposed by Algirdas Greimas for the structural description of narrative. Three pairs of actants (subject/object, sender/receiver, and helper/opponent) are used to analyze the surface structure of stories. The general approach is known as the **actantial** model. See also **narrative.**

active 1 Characteristic of sentences, clauses, or verb forms in which the grammatical subject is typically the actor, in relation to the verb; contrasted with **passive** (where the grammatical subject is typically the recipient or goal of the action denoted by the verb), and sometimes with other categories such as **middle.** In transformational grammar, the transformation of a sentence from an active to a passive form is called **passivization.** See also **verb.** 2 In psycholinguistics, a state which a unit of information may have in the consciousness of a listener or speaker; opposed to **semi-active** and **inactive. Given** information is already active for the speaker, and is assumed to be active for the listener; **new** information is activated by the production of the current utterance. See also **information flow.**

actualization See **realization.**

acute In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of sounds involving a medial articulation in the vocal tract, and a concentration of acoustic energy in the higher frequencies, as in front vowels and in dental, alveolar, or palatal consonants; contrasts with **grave** sounds, which involve a peripheral articulation and energy in the lower frequencies, as in back vowels and labial or velar consonants.

address, forms of A linguistic means by which people mark psycho-social orientation to the people to whom messages are directed. These forms express such relationships as power, status, and solidarity. Examples include the choice of familiar vs. polite pronouns, the mutual use of first names, and the expression of terms of endearment. See also **endearment, terms of; T/V forms.**

adequacy A level of success in the writing of grammars: **external adequacy** judges a grammar in terms of how well it corresponds to the data; **internal adequacy** is a judgment based on the characteristics of the grammar itself. Grammars are **weakly adequate** if they define a particular set of sentences; they are **strongly adequate** if they additionally assign to each sentence the correct structural description. **Observational adequacy** is achieved when a grammar defines all of a particular corpus of data, correctly predicting which sentences are well-formed. **Descriptive adequacy** is achieved when the grammar also describes the **competence** of the language's speakers. **Explanatory adequacy** provides a principled basis for deciding between alternative descriptively adequate grammars. See also **capacity; competence; grammar 1.**

adessive A category of case which expresses the meaning of 'at' or 'near' a place. See also **case; inflection 1.**

ADJ An abbreviation for **adjective.**

Adjacency Constraint A general grammatical principle, proposed to explain patterns of word derivation and compounding, which states that alternations tend to be conditioned by neighboring rather than by distant elements. For example, it is asserted that the choice between the English suffix alternants *-ion/-tion/-ation/-ition/-ution* is conditioned by the preceding morpheme, whether this be the verb (e.g. *commune* requires *-ion*) or a suffix (e.g. *commun-al-ize* requires *-ation*), with the verb unable to make its influence felt across the suffix *(*communaliz-ion)*. See also **affixation.**

adjacency pair In Conversation Analysis, a relationship between adjacent **turns** in a conversation in which a speaker produces a turn of a particular type (e.g. a request) which constrains another party in the conversation to produce a turn matched to the first in some way (e.g. a granting or denial). See also **Conversation Analysis; turn.**

Adjacency Principle A principle of Government and Binding Theory which requires that complements capable of being Case-marked precede those complements which are not, and thus are adjacent to the head of the phrase. See also **complement; Government and Binding Theory.**

adjective (ADJ, A) A word class whose primary function is to modify nouns, expressing their characterizing qualities or attributes. Adjectives typically occur within a noun phrase (attributive adjectives, e.g. *a large book*) or post-verbally (predicative adjectives, e.g. *It's ready*). They may also be the heads of phrases like *very satisfactory*, and certain types of clause may also have an adjectival function, as in *the book I sold.* See also **gradability; modification 1.**

adjoin See **adjunction.**

adjunct 1 An optional or secondary element in a construction, whose removal does not affect the structural identity of the construction. Typical examples include vocative elements, adjectives, and adverbials. See also **word class.** 2 In X-bar Theory, one of the major components of a phrasal category, in addition to head, complement, and specifier.

See also **X-bar Theory.** 3 In some grammatical models, a subclass of adverbials. See also **adverbial.**

adjunction In generative grammar, a class of movement transformations which creates further structure at the **landing site** of movement; contrasted with substitution. Three main types are recognized: **sister adjunction,** in which two elements are adjoined under a particular node, and thus become sister constituents of that node; **Chomsky adjunction,** where an element is adjoined to a node, and a copy of this node is made immediately above it, which then dominates the adjoined elements; and **daughter adjunction,** where an element is adjoined to a node which is an intermediate projection of the node above it. See also **generative grammar 1; substitution; transformation.**

adnominal Any element in a noun phrase which modifies a noun, such as an adjective or a prepositional phrase. The term may also be used to refer to a type of relative clause (e.g. *the book I sold . . .*). See also **modification 1; relative.**

ADV An abbreviation for **adverb** or **adverbial.**

advanced tongue root (ATR) A phonological feature affecting vowel quality, playing a role in vowel harmony for many West African languages. See also **harmony.**

advancement In Relational Grammar, a class of relation-changing processes: a noun phrase bearing a particular grammatical relation to a verb comes to bear a different grammatical relation to that verb, higher up the relational hierarchy. See also **Relational Grammar.**

adverb (ADV) A word class whose most frequent function is to specify the mode of action of a verb, but whose heterogeneous membership may include such items as intensifiers, negative particles, and sentence connectors. A phrase with an adverb as its head is an **adverb phrase** (e.g. *very quickly*), but this term is also used to include all phrases which are like adverbs in function (e.g. *in the house*). A clause which functions like an adverb is an **adverbial clause.** See also **adverbial; intensifier.**

adverbial (ADV, A) An element which functions like an adverb within a clause; it can be realized by a wide range of constructions, typically an adverb, an adverb phrase, a prepositional phrase, or an adverbial clause. See also **adverb; clause.**

affect Expressed emotion, including the display of moods, attitudes, dispositions, and feelings. A contrast is often drawn between such terms as **affective, emotive, expressive,** or **attitudinal meaning,** on the one hand, and **cognitive, descriptive,** or **referential meaning,** on the other. See also **connotation; expressive 1; referent 1.**

affected An entity which does not cause the happening denoted by the verb, but is directly involved in some other way. This is typically the role of the direct object, but some approaches use the term for the indirect object. See also **case; object; patient.**

affirmative Characteristic of a sentence or verb which has no marker of negation, and thus expresses an assertion; also called **positive;** contrasts with **negative.** See also **negation.**

affixation The process of concatenating morphological elements which are non-words (**affixes**) to word roots, either directly (e.g. *hope-less*) or with intermediate affixes (e.g. *nation-al-ize*). Affixes which follow roots are **suffixes** (e.g. *happi-ness*); those which precede roots are **prefixes** (e.g. *re-form*); affixes which divide roots are **infixes** (e.g. Latin *vi/n/co* 'I win'). A combination of non-autonomous prefix and suffix is sometimes referred to as a **circumfix** or **ambifix** (e.g. *en-light-en*). An **interfix** is a meaningless affix inserted between morphological elements (e.g. Spanish *pel-i-rojo* 'red-haired'). Languages which express grammatical relationships primarily through the use of affixes are known as **affixing languages.** See also **morphology.**

affix-hopping rule An obligatory rule in transformational grammar which moves an affix and attaches it to the appropriate formative in a string, e.g. *-ing + go* becomes *go + -ing*. See also **affixation; transformation.**

affixing index A criterion for classifying languages into structural types, based on the number of affixes in a word; also called **affix index.** See also **affixation; typology.**

affricate A type of consonant consisting of a stop released as a homorganic fricative; examples include the consonants in *church* and *judge*. See also **fricative; stop.**

agent An element of a clause, with the typical function of specifying the person (or animate being) responsible for a particular action; also called **agentive.** In some theories, it is seen as one of a fixed set of semantic cases or roles, along with objective, dative, etc.; often specifically contrasted with the (inanimate) notion of instrument. See also **case; theta role.**

agglutinative language A type of language in which words typically contain a linear sequence of morphs showing relatively little morphophonemic fusion; usually contrasted with **isolating** and **fusional** languages. See also **typology.**

AGR An abbreviation in Government and Binding Theory for agreement, especially for the agreement features on the I category in a finite clause. See also **agreement; Government and Binding Theory.**

agrammatism The omission of grammatical morphemes (e.g. inflections, determiners) by speakers suffering from a language disorder, notably Broca's aphasia. See also **paragrammatism.**

agreement A formal relationship between grammatical elements, whereby a form of one word requires other words with corresponding categories of person, gender, number, etc.—an important means of expressing grammatical relationships, especially in languages which lack fixed patterns of word order. **Agreement marking** of person, gender, or number in finite verbs plays an important role in Binding Theory and in Case Theory. See also **Binding Theory; case; concord; Control Agreement Principle.**

airstream The source of power for the acoustic energy in

speech sounds; also called an **airstream mechanism.** Most speech is produced using a pulmonic airstream, in which air in the lungs is compressed using the muscles of the respiratory system. Other airstreams include the glottalic and velaric. See also **glottalic airstream; pulmonic airstream; velaric airstream.**

alethic modality A characteristic of propositions, concerned with their necessary or contingent truth (e.g. *The book must be on the shelf* implies 'It follows, from what is known, that the book is on the shelf'). See also **deontic modality; epistemic modality; mood.**

alexia 1 A disturbance of reading subsequent to brain injury in a previously literate adult; also called **dyslexia.** The term is also used for the corresponding range of difficulties that can emerge in children as they try to learn to read, write, and spell, in the absence of evident brain injury; this is called **developmental alexia** or **dyslexia.** A reading error produced while reading is a **paralexia. Surface alexia** or **dyslexia** is mainly characterized by difficulty in reading irregular words; **phonological alexia** or **dyslexia** by a difficulty in reading pseudo-words, compared with real words; and **deep alexia** or **dyslexia** by difficulty in reading pseudo-words along with the production of semantic paralexias. See also **clinical linguistics; neurolinguistics.** 2 In a more restricted sense, a disturbance of reading in adults, as contrasted with **dyslexia** in children.

alienability A type of possessive relationship formally marked in some languages, expressing the dependence between a possessed item and a possessor. An **alienable** relationship is temporary or non-essential (e.g. *the horse's saddle*); an **inalienable** relationship is permanent or necessary (e.g. *the horse's head*).

allative An inflectional category of case, expressing the meaning of motion 'to' or 'towards' a place. See also **case; inflection 1.**

allo- A prefix referring to a variant form of a linguistic unit, such that the variant does not affect the unit's functional identity in the language; sometimes called a **contextual variant.** The notion is usually encountered with reference to variants of phonemes (**allophones**) and morphemes (**allomorphs**), but is also used with reference to graphemes (**allographs**) and in several areas of semiotic study. See also **context 1; morpheme; phoneme.**

alpha movement See **Move alpha.**

alpha notation A transcriptional convention in generative grammar which makes it possible to simplify the statement of a rule by introducing a variable (the Greek symbol α). See also **generative grammar; Move alpha.**

alternant See **alternation.**

alternation The relationship which exists between the variant forms (**alternants**) of a linguistic unit; the notation X~Y means 'X is in alternation with Y.' The term is particularly current in morphology, where several types of **morpheme alternant** have been distinguished. See also **allo-.**

alveolar Characteristic of a consonant sound made by the tongue tip or blade with the bony prominence immediately behind the upper teeth (the **alveolar ridge**), such as English [t] and [d]. See also **coronal; dental.**

alveo-palatal Characteristic of a sound made by the front of the tongue a little in advance of the palatal articulatory area, e.g. Polish *ś;* also called **alveolo-palatal.** The term is also used to mean the same as **palato-alveolar.** See also **alveolar; palate.**

ambifix See **affixation.**

ambiguity The quality of expressing more than one meaning. In **grammatical** or **structural ambiguity,** a sentence can be assigned alternative constituent structures (as in *big windows and doors*) or semantic representations (as in *Visiting professors can be boring*). In **lexical ambiguity,** alternative meanings can be given to a single lexical item (*an interesting table*). See also **disambiguation; semantics; structural ambiguity.**

ambisyllabicity In Metrical Phonology, the situation in which a intervocalic consonant is considered a member of two adjacent syllables in the underlying syllabification of a language, in conformity with the template for syllable structure. See also **Metrical Phonology; syllable; template 2.**

amnesic aphasia See **anomia.**

anacoluthon A syntactic break in the expected grammatical sequence within a sentence, e.g. when a construction has been left incomplete because the speaker has suddenly changed direction.

analogy A process of regularization which affects exceptional forms in the grammar of a language, as when young children alter English irregular plurals to conform to the regular pattern (e.g. *mans*). The **analogical creation** of new morphological forms is a major process in the history of a language.

analysis-by-synthesis A process posited as occurring in **speech perception,** whereby listeners are said to have an internal, language-specific mechanism that responds to incoming speech by selecting certain acoustic cues, and then attempting to synthesize a replica of the input. See also **acoustic cues.**

analytic See **formalism; speech perception.**

analytic language A type of language in which the words are invariable, and syntactic relationships are shown by word order; usually contrasted with a **synthetic language,** where the words typically contain more than one morpheme. See also **invariable word.**

analyzability In transformational grammar, a characteristic of a string in relation to a transformation: if the string meets the structural description of the transformational rule, it is **analyzable;** if it does not, it is **unanalyzable.** See also **transformation.**

anaphor In Government and Binding Theory, a type of noun

phrase which has no independent reference, but refers to some other sentence constituent as its **antecedent.** Anaphors include reflexive pronouns, reciprocal pronouns, and NP-traces. See also **anaphora; Government and Binding Theory; trace.**

anaphora A grammatical relationship in which a linguistic unit derives its interpretation from a previously expressed unit (its antecedent), as when a third person pronoun refers back to a noun phrase. In this sense it is often contrasted with **cataphora,** where the words refer forward, and **exophora,** where the words refer directly to the extralinguistic situation. The term 'anaphora' may also be found subsuming both forward- and backward-referring functions. See also **anaphor; antecedent; deixis; endophora.**

anaptyxis A type of phonological intrusion, where an extra vowel is inserted between two consonants; **anaptyctic** vowels are also called **parasite vowels** or **svarabhakti vowels.** See also **epenthesis; intrusion.**

animate noun A subclass of nouns whose reference is to persons and animals; contrasted with **inanimate nouns,** which refer to entities and abstract concepts.

anomia A mild or severe impairment of naming or word-finding following focal brain damage, common in all forms of aphasia; when it is the primary form of language deficit, it can be called **anomic aphasia,** also known as **nominal** or **amnesic aphasia.** Difficult to localize in the brain, since it can follow damage to a variety of cortical areas, it may emerge as specific to particular behavioral modalities, such as the auditory or visual, and to particular semantic categories, such as color. Semantic and phonological factors are both involved in any classification of anomic responses. See also **aphasia; phonological paraphasia; semantic paraphasia.**

anomic aphasia See **anomia.**

antecedent A linguistic unit (typically, a noun phrase) from which another unit (typically, a following personal or relative pronoun) derives its interpretation. For example, in *The book which I borrowed is now overdue; I shall take it back to the library tomorrow, the book* is the antecedent of *which* and *it.* See also **anaphora; pronoun.**

anterior In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a sound which occurs in front of the center of the alveolar ridge ([+ Anterior], contrasting with [− Anterior]). See also **coronal; Phonological Feature Theory.**

anthropological linguistics An approach developed by North American linguists which focuses on the description of non-Western languages, especially those of the Americas, later emphasizing the study of areal groups, language contact, and linguistic typology. A contrast is sometimes drawn with **linguistic anthropology,** a branch of anthropology which explores the place of language in the life of human communities, focusing on naturally occurring talk, cross-cultural diversity, and the integration of language within human culture and society. See also **areal linguistics; ethnolinguistics; field work; language contact; linguistic relativity; typology.**

anthroponymy See **onomastics.**

anticipatory assimilation See **assimilation.**

anticipatory *it* A use of *it* found in extraposition, where it corresponds to a later item in the sentence, as in *It was good of him to see us;* also known as extrapositive or **preparatory *it*.** The term **anticipatory subject** is also used. See also **extraposition.**

antonymy A type of sense relation expressing the meaning of oppositeness; often subclassified into **graded antonymy,** where there are degrees of difference (e.g. *fat* vs. *thin*), and **ungraded antonymy,** where there is an either/or contrast (e.g. *single* vs. *married*). Some linguists reserve the term for the category of graded antonymy only, with these contrasts often being referred to as **contrary terms** or **contraries;** contrasts of the ungraded type are known as **complementaries.** See also **complementarity; hyponymy; synonymy.**

A-over-A Principle A condition formulated during the development of transformational grammar, also known as the **A-over-A Condition:** if a transformation applies to a structure of the form $[_S \ldots [_A \ldots]_A \ldots]$, then for any category A it must be interpreted as applying to the maximal phrase of the type A. See also **transformation.**

apex See **tip.**

aphasia A disruption or loss of language caused by focal damage to the brain of a previously normal language user; Sometimes distinguished from dysphasia, when the latter is conceived as a less severe or developmental condition. See also **agrammatism; clinical linguistics; dysphasia; neurolinguistics; paragrammatism.**

apheresis or **aphaeresis** The deletion of the initial sound in a word, either historically (as in the initial consonant in *knee*) or synchronically (as in the contraction *I'm*). See also **apocope; syncope.**

apical Characteristic of a consonant sound made by the tongue tip at or near the upper incisor teeth or teeth ridge; examples include the trilled [r] and some types of dental sound. See also **dental; laminal.**

apocope The deletion of the final element in a word, as when *of* is reduced to a vowel in such phrases as *cup of coffee.* See also **apheresis; syncope.**

applied linguistics The use of linguistic theories, methods, and findings in elucidating language problems which have arisen in other areas of experience. Applied domains include the teaching and learning of foreign languages, the analysis of language disorders, the use of language in mother-tongue education, translation and interpreting, lexicography, and stylistics.

apposition A relationship between noun phrases which are constituents at the same grammatical level, and which have

an identity or similarity of reference, e.g. *Dr. Smith, the lecturer, arrived.* The term **appositive relative** is sometimes used for a non-restrictive relative clause. See also **relative.**

appropriateness The suitability of a linguistic variety or form in a particular social situation, such as the use of elliptical or contracted forms in informal speech situations. The term is often used in drawing a contrast with prescriptive approaches to language study. See also **prescriptivism.**

approximant A major class of consonant sounds, in terms of manner of articulation, involving a minimum degree of constriction, similar to that of vowels. The term is applied to semivowels and sometimes to other resonants. See also **frictionless continuant; manner of articulation; resonant; semivowel.**

apraxia Disruption or loss of the ability to carry out purposeful actions on request, as a result of focal brain damage, in the absence of elementary motor, sensory, or coordination deficits; sometimes called **dyspraxia.** Laborious and distorted production of spoken language is also called **articulatory** or **verbal apraxia/dyspraxia,** or **apraxia of speech.** See also **clinical linguistics; neurolinguistics.**

arbitrariness A proposed defining property of human language, whereby linguistic forms are said to lack physical correspondence with the phenomena in the world to which they refer. In Saussure's theory of language, the relationship between the two aspects of the **sign** is said to be **arbitrary.** See also **iconicity; sign 1.**

arc A convention in Relational Grammar, whereby curved arrows are used to represent directional dependencies between a syntactic unit (the governor) and the entities which constitute the relational structure of that unit. Relationships postulated between pairs of arcs, further combined into pair networks, are the basis of **Arc Pair Grammar.** See also **Relational Grammar.**

archiphoneme A phonological unit proposed by Nikolai Trubetzkoy to subsume classes of phonemes whose contrast is neutralized or lost in certain positions, as when plosives follow initial [s] in English, e.g. *skip.* See also **neutralization; phoneme.**

areal linguistics The study of a geographical region which is characterized by shared linguistic properties, called a **linguistic area** or **Sprachbund;** sometimes, the study of the geographical distribution of linguistic phemonena generally, often including the history of those distributions. A **linguistic area** contains languages belonging to more than one family, but shows common traits that are not found in other members of at least one of the families. In the more general sense of areal linguistics, an **areal classification** establishes **areal groups** or **types** (e.g. the Scandinavian languages), often recognizing **transitional areas** between them. A **focal area** is a region from which linguistic characteristics have spread to an area as a whole. **Relic areas** preserve features of an earlier stage of development. A contrast is sometimes drawn with **non-areal** features, such as the differences between male and female speech. See also **dialect.**

argument (A) The relationship of a term to the simple proposition of which it is a part; formalized in Generative Grammar with reference to the various noun phrase positions within a sentence. The **nuclear arguments** are intransitive subject, transitive subject (or agent), and transitive objec (or patient). In Case Grammar, propositions are analyzed in terms of a predicate word and an unordered set of argumen slots, each labeled according to its semantic relationship with this predicate word. In Government and Binding The ory, an argument is an expression with a **theta role;** the position to which a theta role can be assigned is an **argumen position.** See also **Case Grammar; proposition; theta role.**

article A subclass of determiner which displays a primary rol in distinguishing the uses of nouns; sometimes identified a a separate word class. A distinction between **definite** an **indefinite** articles is usually made, partly on semantic an partly on grammatical grounds. See also **definiteness; de terminer.**

articulation The use of the vocal organs above the laryn to produce the sounds of speech. The chief active **articula tors** are the tongue and lips; the chief passive organs ar the teeth and hard palate. See also **articulatory phonetic closure; coarticulation; manner of articulation; place o articulation.**

articulatory analog See **speech synthesis.**

articulatory gesture A major classification of phonologic features, referring to place of articulation, and divided in labial, coronal, dorsal, and radical features. See also **Pho nological Feature Theory; place of articulation.**

articulatory phonetics The study of the way sounds a produced by the vocal organs during speech. See als **articulation; phonetics.**

articulatory setting See **setting.**

ascension A class of relation-changing processes in Rel tional Grammar, in which a noun phrase that is part of larger noun phrase comes to bear the grammatical relatio previously borne by the larger noun phrase. See also **Rel tional Grammar.**

ascriptive Characteristic of a sentence where there is attributive identity between the pre- and post-verbal el ments, but no permutability (e.g. *The cat was hungry,* b **Hungry was the cat*). See also **equative 1.**

aspect A grammatical category which marks the duration type of temporal activity denoted by the verb, as in t perfective/imperfective distinction found in Slavic languag or, more controversially, the contrast between **progressi** and non-progressive in English. In generative grammar, formative which marks an aspectual relation is an **aspe tualizer.** See also **inceptive; iterative 1; perfect.**

aspiration Audible breath which may accompany a sound

articulation, as when certain types of plosive consonant are released. See also **plosive; progressive.**

ASR The abbreviation for **automatic speech recognition;** see **speech recognition.**

assimilation The influence exercised by one sound segment upon the articulation of another, so that the sounds become more alike, or identical; contrasted with dissimilation. In **regressive** or **anticipatory** assimilation, the sound alters because of the influence of the following sound (e.g. [n] may become [m] in the phrase *ten bikes*). In **progressive** assimilation, the sound alters because of the influence of the preceding sound (e.g. [s] may become [ʃ] in the phrase *Bush Street*). In **coalescent** or **reciprocal** assimilation, there is mutual influence, or fusion (e.g. the [t] and [j] combine as the affricate [tʃ] in *don't you*). See also **articulation; dissimilation.**

association In Autosegmental Phonology, the relationship between segments on different tiers; **association lines** represent temporal simultaneity between features at each tier. Segments which associate between tiers are **freely associating** segments. Once an association line is established, the **association convention** relates the remaining features: when **unassociated** features appear on the same side of an association line, they are automatically associated in a one-to-one way, radiating outward from the association line. Shifts in association are known as **reassociations.** See also **Autosegmental Phonology; tier.**

associative relations See **paradigm.**

asterisked form **1** In synchronic linguistics, a linguistic form which is unacceptable or ungrammatical in a given language; also called a **starred form.** See also **acceptability; grammaticality.** **2** In historical linguistics, a form which has been reconstructed. See also **reconstruction 1.**

atelic verb See **telic verb.**

ATN Grammar The abbreviation for **Augmented Transition Network Grammar;** see **Transition Network Grammar.**

atomic phonology An approach to phonology that aims to specify the most limiting conditions on the application of phonological rules; these restrictions are taken to be the **atomic rules** for phonological processes (e.g. devoicing), and variations are predicted through the use of universal principles.

ATR An abbreviation for **advanced tongue root.**

attested form A linguistic form for which there is clear evidence of present or past use, as contrasted with the reconstructed forms of historical linguistics, or an analyst's intuitive impressions. See also **reconstruction 1.**

attitudinal meaning See **affect.**

attribute **1** In syntax, an adjective or noun which is used to modify the head of a noun phrase; the **attributive** function here contrasts with the **predicative** function of such items (e.g. *the dangerous corner* vs. *The corner is dangerous*). In some approaches, the identical semantic relationship in such attributive and predicative constructions is treated as primary, and the term 'attribute' is applied to both. See also **head; predicate.** **2** In auditory phonetics, an isolable characteristic of sound sensation, such as pitch, loudness, or timbre. See also **auditory phonetics.**

auditory phonetics The study of the perceptual response to speech sounds, as mediated by ear, auditory nerve, and brain. See also **speech perception.**

augmentative See **diminutive.**

autolexical syntax A model of grammatical analysis in which syntax and morphology are seen as two parallel but independent organizations of the same surface material. See also **morphology; syntax.**

automata Abstract mathematical models of machines that perform computations on an input by moving through a series of states (configurations); at each stage of the computation, a **transition function** determines the next configuration on the basis of a finite portion of the present configuration. **Finite automata** consist of a finite number of states and a 'read-only' tape containing the input, which is read in one direction. **Pushdown automata** involve a sequence in which symbols can be added and removed only from one end. See also **computational linguistics; mathematical linguistics; Transition Network Grammar.**

automatic variation A morphological variation which is entirely motivated by the phonological rules of the language, such as the alternation between English /-s/, /-z/, and /-iz/ (Amer. /-ɨz/) in plurals, possessives, and third person present tense forms. See also **morphophonemics.**

autonomous phoneme A phonemic unit defined without reference to relationships with grammatical structure, thus contrasting with such notions as the **morphophoneme** and **systematic phoneme.** See also **morphophonemics; phoneme; systematic phonemics.**

autonomous syntax In the Standard Theory of generative grammar, the view that the syntactic component of the grammar is independent of semantics. See also **generative grammar; Standard Theory; syntax.**

autosegment In Autosegmental Phonology, a segment considered to be autonomous and represented on its own tier. The notion includes tones, which are viewed as segments in their own right. See also **Autosegmental Phonology; tier.**

Autosegmental Phonology A theory which views a phonological system as comprising several tiers, each consisting of a linear arrangement of segments. The tiers are linked to each other by association lines showing how the segments are to be coarticulated. See also **association; autosegment; tier.**

AUX The abbreviation for **auxiliary verb.**

auxiliary language A language which has been adopted by a speech community for such purposes as international communication, trade, or education, though only a minority

binary feature A property used to classify linguistic units in terms of two mutually exclusive possibilities, as in distinctive feature theories of phonology, where it is conventional to symbolize the opposition using a plus and a minus (e.g. [+voice], [−voice]). Binary features may be contrasted with **unary** and **multi-valued** features. See also **Phonological Feature Theory; opposition.**

Binding Theory In Government and Binding Theory, a series of conditions which formally relate ('bind') certain elements of a sentence. **A-binding** obtains if a category is **coindexed** with a **c-commanding** noun phrase in an A-position. See **coindexing; command. A-bar-binding** obtains if a category is coindexed with a c-commanding category which is in an A-bar position. Binding Theory is primarily concerned with the distribution of noun phrases in a sentence, determining the situations in which they can or must be coindexed with other noun phrases. The extension of A-binding to A-bar-binding is known as **Generalized Binding Theory.** See also **Government and Binding Theory.**

biolinguistics The study of the biological preconditions for language development and use, both in the human species and in individuals; also called **biological linguistics.**

Bioprogram Hypothesis A hypothesis, introduced by Derek Bickerton into creole language studies, which states that creole languages develop, on biologically determined foundations, among children growing up in the forts or on the plantations of the newly-formed colonies. See also **creole.**

Biuniqueness Condition A phonological principle which states that any sequence of phonemes will be represented by a unique sequence of phones, and vice versa. See also **invariance; linearity.**

blade The part of the tongue between tip and center, and which lies opposite the teeth and alveolar ridge when the tongue is in a neutral position; also known as the **lamina.**

bleeding Descriptive of a phonological relationship between rules, in which a rule A removes a structural representation to which another rule B would otherwise apply; opposed to **feeding.** Rule A is a **bleeding rule** in relation to B, and the linear order of the rules is a **bleeding order.** See also **feeding.**

blending A grammatical or lexical process in which two elements which do not normally co-occur are combined as a single linguistic unit, e.g. *Eurovision.* When the process affects syntax, it is called a **syntactic blend.**

blocking In classical transformational grammar, the non-application of a transformational rule. A rule is blocked if it cannot be applied to a derivation because of the occurrence of a specific property in a phrase-marker. See also **rule; transformation.**

block language The use of abbreviated structures in restricted communicative contexts, special use being made of the word and phrase rather than the clause or sentence. Examples include the use of written announcements and headlines. See also **ellipsis.**

borrowing See **loan.**

bound expression See **set expression.**

bound form See **Binding Theory; morpheme.**

Bounding Theory A subtheory of Government and Binding Theory which sets limits on the domain of **movement** rules. In the early development of the approach, barriers to movement were known as **bounding nodes.** See also **Government and Binding Theory; movement.**

bracketing A technique for displaying the internal structure of a string of syntactic elements. Each pair of brackets may be associated with a label which indicates the grammatical reason for their presence; this is called a **labeled bracketing.** See also **constituent; phrase-marker.**

branching The descending linear connections which form the identity of a syntactic tree diagram. A node from which more than one constituent derives is called a **branching node.** See also **node; phrase-marker.**

breath group A stretch of utterance produced within a single expiration of breath. See also **pulmonic.**

breathy voice A state of phonation in which the vocal folds are held somewhat apart; also known as **murmur.** See also **phonation; vocal folds.**

broad transcription See **transcription.**

bunching A tongue position in which the body of the tongue is held high and tense during the production of a sound, as in high vowels and palatal fricatives.

burst A sudden, short peak of acoustic energy which occurs in the production of certain sounds, e.g. at the release stage of plosives. See also **plosive.**

C An abbreviation for **complement;** also for **complementizer** in later Government and Binding Theory.

CA An abbreviation for **Conversation Analysis** or **contrastive analysis.**

calque A type of borrowing where the morphemic constituents of the borrowed word are translated item by item into equivalent morphemes in the new language (e.g. English *power politics* from German *Machtpolitik*); also called **loan translation.** See also **loan.**

CAP The abbreviation for **Control Agreement Principle.**

capacity In formal language theory, an indication of the capability of a grammar. If a language is considered as a set of strings over some alphabet, **weak generative capacity** is just this set of strings. In **strong generative capacity,** a system of structural descriptions specified by the grammar is associated with the set of strings. See also **Chomsky hierarchy; generative grammar; string.**

cardinal number The class of numerals *one, two,* etc., in contrast with the **ordinal numbers,** *first, second,* etc.

cardinal vowels A set of standard articulatory reference points, devised by Daniel Jones, which provide a precise means of identifying the vowel sounds in a language. A set

of eight **primary** vowels is recognized, and a second set of eight **secondary** vowels is produced by reversing the lip position for each vowel (rounded to unrounded, or vice versa). See also **articulatory phonetics; vowel.**

caregiver/caretaker speech See **motherese.**

case A grammatical category in certain languages which identifies the relationship between words and phrases in a sentence (primarily nouns and noun phrases), based on variations in their morphological form. With a capital letter, **Case** refers to an abstract notion of grammatical relationship, claimed to be present even in languages which lack morphological case. **Case Theory,** in Government and Binding Theory, deals with the assignment of abstract Case and its morphological realizations: **structural Case** is assigned to noun phrases at S-structure; **inherent Case** is assigned to noun phrases in D-structure. **Case-marking rules** assign structural Case to certain noun phrase positions, and the **Case filter** restricts the range of sentences which can be generated in this way. See also **Case Grammar; D-structure; Government and Binding Theory; inflection 1; noun; participant roles 2; S-structure; theta role.**

Case Grammar An approach to grammatical analysis, devised by Charles Fillmore, which recognizes a set of syntactic functions in the analysis of sentences, giving these an interpretation in terms of semantic roles (e.g. agentive, dative, locative). See also **case; theta role.**

cataphora See **anaphora.**

categorial component Part of the base component of a generative grammar, specifying such syntactic categories as sentence (S), noun phrase (NP), and verb phrase (VP). See also **base component; generative grammar.**

Categorial Grammar A type of formal grammar, devised by Yehoshua Bar-Hillel and others in the 1950s, which operates in terms of two fundamental categories, sentence and noun. See also **grammar 1; noun; sentence.**

categorial rule In generative grammar, a rule which expands a category into other categories. See also **generative grammar.**

categorical perception A process posited to explain the relationship between identification and discrimination in speech perception, according to which individuals are able to discriminate only those stimuli that they label as belonging to different phonetic categories. See also **speech perception.**

category feature In generative grammar, a syntactic feature which specifies conditions relating to where in deep structure a lexical item can occur. See also **deep structure; generative grammar.**

category variable In generative grammar, a symbol which stands for any lexical category. See also **generative grammar; lexicon.**

catenative A lexical verb which governs the non-finite form of another lexical verb, as with *want* in *He wants to go.* See also **finite; verb.**

causative A grammatical category, usually expressed by a verb or a derivational affix on a verb, which expresses a causal relationship, such as 'cause to go'. See also **factitive 1.**

cavity In phonetics, any of the anatomically defined chambers of the vocal tract which are the principal formative influences on the character of a sound. The main cavities are the **esophageal** (from the esophagus to the stomach), the **pulmonic** (the lungs and trachea), the **pharyngeal** (the larynx to the base of the soft palate), the **oral** (the whole mouth area), and the **nasal** (the nose and part of the pharynx above the soft palate). See also **cavity feature; Phonological Feature Theory; vocal tract.**

cavity feature In Phonological Feature Theory, a major dimension of speech sound classification, referring to portions of the vocal tract. The term subsumes features labeled as coronal, anterior, rounded, distributed, and covered, as well as in terms of glottal constriction and secondary apertures (nasal and lateral), and tongue-body features. See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

c-command The abbreviation for **constituent command;** see **command.**

CD The abbreviation for **communicative dynamism.**

ceneme In Glossematics, the minimal unit in a language's phonological system. See also **Glossematics.**

center **1** The top part of the tongue, between front and back, used especially in the production of central vowels (notably shwa) or vowels which have been **centralized,** i.e. articulated nearer the center of the mouth. **2** The most sonorous part of a **syllable;** also called the syllable **nucleus.** See **syllable.** **3** The head of an endocentric phrase. See also **endocentric construction.**

center-embedding See **self-embedding.**

CFG The abbreviation for **context-free grammar.**

chain **1** A model of communication in which the communicative act is seen as an interrelated sequence of stages between a speaker and a receiver, typically in the form of the **speech chain.** **2** A major axis of linguistic organization, corresponding to the syntagmatic dimension of study, and contrasted with **choice,** which corresponds to the paradigmatic dimension. See also **syntagm.** **3** In historical phonology, a series of sound changes in which each change influences the next. When the process begins at the top or front end of an articulatory dimension, empty slots are left in the chain which other sounds move up to fill: a **drag chain.** When the process begins at the bottom or back end of the chain, each sound 'pushes' the next out of place: a **push chain.** **4** In recent transformational grammar, a series of **coindexed** categories in some local domain, forming a representation of S-structure. See also **coindexing; S-structure.**

channel vocoder The earliest practical system of electronic speech synthesis. The device analyzes the acoustic energy distribution in the speech spectrum, the fundamental fre-

quency, and voice/noise characteristics. The derived signals are then transmitted to a synthesizer system consisting of a filterbank and sources for voiced and voiceless sounds. See also **speech synthesis.**

chart In Autosegmental Phonology, a pair of tiers along with the set of association lines which relates them. See also **Autosegmental Phonology.**

checked 1 In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a consonant produced with accompanying glottal activity, involving a rapid energy discharge in a short time interval, as with ejectives and implosives. See also **glottal; Phonological Feature Theory.** 2 See **syllable.**

checking tag A type of tag question construction which reverses the positive/negative value of the main-clause verb, and whose function is seen as one of confirmation, or 'checking' (e.g. *She's outside, isn't she?*). Other types of tag are **copy tags.** See also **question; tag 1.**

chereme A minimal contrastive unit in a system of manual signs. The term was introduced by William Stokoe, on analogy with phoneme. In this approach, sign structure is analyzed in terms of distinctive hand shapes, patterns of movement, and locations relative to the signer. The study of cheremes is carried on by **cherology.** See also **kineme; phoneme; sign language.**

chest pulse A contraction of those muscles of the chest which are involved in the exhalation of air from the lungs. The notion is given central status in one theory of syllable production. See also **syllable.**

CHO The abbreviation for **chômeur.**

choice See **chain 2.**

chômeur ('unemployed') In Relational Grammar, a nominal item which has its role in a clause taken over by another nominal; abbreviated as CHO. See also **Relational Grammar.**

Chomsky-adjunction See **adjunction.**

Chomsky hierarchy A series of increasingly comprehensive classes of formal languages containing the following principal members: **finite-state** (right-linear or Type 3), **context-free** (Type 2), **context-sensitive** (Type 1), **recursive** and **recursively enumerable** (Type 0). See also **context 1; finite-state grammar; recursive.**

chroneme A phonological unit of length, sometimes used in the description of long vs. short vowels or long vs. short consonants.

chronemics The study of how human beings communicate in time.

circumfix See **affixation.**

citation form The form of a linguistic unit (typically, a spoken word) as produced in isolation for purposes of discussion. A similar element in lexicography is the **citation slip,** which provides the written evidence on which to base a dictionary entry.

class 1 A set of entities sharing certain formal or semantic properties; typically, morphemes are grouped into **form classes** and words into **word classes.** See also **word class.** 2 In Systemic Grammar, any set of items having the same possibilities of operation in structure, such as the class of nominal groups in clause structure. See also **Systemic Grammar.**

class dialect A variety of language which correlates with a division of social class; also known as a **social dialect.** See also **dialect.**

classeme See **seme.**

classifier 1 A morpheme which indicates the formal or semantic class to which items belong, e.g. the adverb suffix *-ly* in English. See also **word class.** Some languages, e.g. Chinese, have **numeral classifiers** used in counting different semantic classes of nouns. 2 In sign language, a special form distinguished by handshape which functions pronominally for a class of objects, such as 'vehicle' or 'legged creature'. See also **sign language.**

clause A unit of grammatical organization hierarchically intermediate between the sentence and the phrase; it typically contains functional elements such as subject, verb, and object, but does not necessarily constitute a full sentence. Classifications involve such notions as independence (main vs. subordinate), finiteness (finite vs. non-finite), and sentential role (nominal, adverbial, etc.). In a **clause-chaining** language, clauses are combined in a string without a clear distinction always being made between coordination and subordination. See also **finite; kernel clause; serial verb construction; small clause; *that*-clause; WH-clause.**

clause-mate In generative grammar, the relationship between elements which are dominated by exactly the same S nodes. See also **clause; generative grammar; node.**

clear L A variety of lateral sound in which the resonance is that of a front vowel of an [i] quality, as in Eng. *leap;* contrasts with **dark L,** where the resonance is that of a back vowel of an [u] quality, as in *pull.* See also **lateral.**

cleft sentence A construction where a single clause has been divided into two separate sections, each with its own verb. For example, *Mary is looking at a picture* can be 'cleft' into *It is Mary who is looking at a picture.* See also **pseudo-cleft sentence.**

click A consonant sound produced by the velaric airstream mechanism, such as the dental click [ǀ] used in English as the sound of disapproval ('tut tut') in English. See also **velaric airstream.**

cline In Systemic Grammar, a continuum of potentially infinite gradience, such as the range of possible contrasts among pitch patterns. See **gradience; Systemic Grammar.**

clinical linguistics The application of linguistics to the analysis of disorders of language, especially those involving the production or comprehension of speech. See also **alexia; anomia; aphasia; apraxia; neurolinguistics.**

clitic A form which resembles a word, but which cannot be used on its own as a normal utterance because it is structurally dependent on a neighboring word in a construction,

such as the contracted forms of *be* in English (e.g. *I'm*); also called a **syntactic clitic** when its role as a syntactic constituent is emphasized. Clitics which depend on a following word are **proclitics;** those which depend on a preceding word are **enclitics.** See also **word.**

closed class A word class whose membership is fixed or limited, such as the class of articles, pronouns, or conjunctions; contrasted with **open class,** where new items are regularly added, as with nouns and adjectives. See also **word class.**

closed syllable See **syllable.**

close vowel A vowel produced with high or relatively high tongue position; contrasts with **open vowel.**

closure An articulation where the contact between active and passive articulators obstructs the airstream through the mouth and/or nose. Closure may be complete (as in plosives), intermittent (flaps), or partial (laterals).

cluster A sequence of adjacent consonants, especially when occurring initially or finally in a syllable, e.g. [spr-, -sts].

coalescence The merger of linguistic units in sequence; for example, in the history of English, /z/ coalesced with a following semivowel /j/ to produce /ʒ/ in such words as *measure*. See also **assimilation.**

coarticulation The overlap of articulatory gestures associated with separate speech segments; for example, the articulation of /t/ with spread or rounded lips, depending on the rounding of the following vowel. See also **assimilation.**

cocktail party effect The process of selective listening, whereby people listening to several conversations at once are able to attend consciously to one of them, and to ignore the others.

coda 1 In phonology, the final **margin** of a syllable. See also **syllable.** 2 In narratology, an element which formally signals the end of a story, and which may also bring the action up to the time of narration. See also **narrative.**

code-mixing In bilingualism, the transfer of linguistic elements from one language into another. See also **bilingualism; code-switching.**

code-switching The use by a speaker of more than one language, dialect, or variety during a conversation, depending on such factors as audience and topic (conversational switching); also, the differential use of languages or varieties depending on the situation (situational switching). See also **accommodation; code-mixing; language contact; multilingualism.**

cognate A language or linguistic form which is historically derived from the same source as another.

cognate object An object element which has the same historical derivation as the verb which governs it (e.g. *live a good life*) or is semantically dependent upon the action of the verb (e.g. *ask a question*). See also **object.**

cognitive competence See **competence.**

cognitive grammar A grammatical theory in which structures do not constitute an autonomous formal system but are claimed to be inherently symbolic, providing for the structuring and conventional symbolization of conceptual content. See also **grammar 1.**

cognitive meaning See **referent 1.**

coherence The underlying functional connectedness of a piece of spoken or written language. In Systemic Grammar, this is contrasted with **cohesion,** the surface features of an utterance or text which link different parts of sentences or larger units (e.g. the cross-referencing function of pronouns). See also **discourse; Systemic Grammar; text.**

cohesion See **coherence.**

cohyponym See **hyponymy.**

coindexing The process of assigning the same subscript (sometimes superscript) letter or numeral to a series of constituents, in order to mark the semantic identity of these constituents. See also **coreference; indexing.**

collapse In generative grammar, the notational conflation of two rules into one, in the interests of making a simpler or more general statement.

collective noun A noun which denotes a group of entities, and which is formally differentiated from other nouns by a distinct pattern of number contrast, as when *government* and *army* occur with a plural verb in British English. See also **noun.**

colligation In Firthian linguistics, the grouping of a set of words on the basis of their similarity in entering into syntagmatic grammatical relations; usually contrasted with collocation. See also **collocation; syntagm.**

collocation The habitual co-occurrence of individual lexical items, such as *auspicious* + *occasion*. The potential of items to collocate is known as their **collocability** or **collocational range.** In Firthian linguistics, contrasted with colligation. See also **colligation; lexicon; selectional feature.**

command 1 In generative grammar, a relationship between elements within a phrase-marker, in which **c-command** (constituent command) is distinguished from **m-command** (maximal command). C-command is the relationship between an element and the other elements to which it is superior in the phrase-marker but which it does not dominate. A constituent X m-commands Y if the first maximal projection which dominates X also dominates Y, and X does not dominate Y, and Y does not dominate X. See also **generative grammar; phrase-marker.** 2 A sentence whose typical function is to tell someone to do something, and whose form generally involves the use of a verb in the imperative mood, e.g. *Go!* See also **sentence.**

comment See **topic.**

comment clause A type of clause whose function is to add a parenthetic comment to another clause, e.g. *you know; generally speaking*. See also **clause.**

commissive Characteristic of an utterance where a speaker

makes a commitment to a future course of action, as in *I promise . . .* . See also **speech act.**

common core The range of linguistic features common to all the varieties of a language. See also **variety.**

common noun See **proper noun.**

communicative competence A speaker's implicit knowledge of the situational appropriateness of language; generally contrasted with **linguistic competence,** the speaker's implicit knowledge of the formal patterning of language. See also **competence.**

communicative dynamism In Functional Sentence Perspective, the degree to which an element of a sentence contributes to the achievement of a communicative goal. The comparison of languages in respect of the way they handle communicative dynamism is **linguistic characterology.** See also **Functional Sentence Perspective; information flow; rheme.**

commutation In phonology, a process of sound substitution to show contrast, as in the use of the minimal pair to establish phonemes (the commutation test). See also **contrast; minimal pair; phoneme.**

COMP An abbreviation for **complement, comparative,** or **complementizer.**

compact In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a sound involving a stricture relatively far forward in the mouth, and with a relatively high concentration of acoustic energy in a narrow, central part of the sound spectrum (e.g. open vowels, velar consonants). By contrast, **diffuse** sounds have the stricture relatively far back, and there is a relatively low concentration of energy in non-central parts of the spectrum (e.g. close vowels, front consonants). See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

comparative (COMP) A grammatical form used for the comparison of two entities, such as the use of *-er* or *more* with adjectives in English *(bigger, more interesting)*. The construction which may follow the use of a comparative is often referred to as the **comparative clause.** See also **degree.**

comparative linguistics The branch of linguistics which interrelates the characteristics of different languages believed to have a common historical origin (formerly also known as **comparative philology** or **comparative grammar**). See also **diachronic linguistics; philology.**

comparative method In comparative linguistics, the comparison of forms taken from cognate languages to determine the details of their historical relationship. See also **cognate.**

comparative reconstruction See **reconstruction 1.**

compensatory lengthening The lengthening of a vowel concomitant with the loss of a nearby, usually syllable-final segment, thus restoring the syllable to its original weight. See also **syllable.**

competence A person's internalized knowledge of the system of rules underlying his or her language; contrasts with performance. The notion has prompted several related terms. **Communicative** or **pragmatic competence** is the ability to produce and understand sentences appropriate to the social context in which they occur. **Literary competence** is culturally acquired, making explicit the underlying set of conventions used in creating the literature of a language. **Textual** or **discourse competence** is the ability to produce and understand messages within units longer than a single sentence. **Narrative competence** is a narrower notion, relating specifically to story-telling ability. Broader notions include **social competence** (the ability to negotiate interrelationships between oneself and others) and **cognitive competence** (the ability to organize conceptual information and to represent it through language). See also **performance.**

complement (COMP, C) A constituent of clause or sentence structure, traditionally associated with 'completing' the action specified by the verb. The domain of **complementation** may include all obligatory features of the predicate other than the verb (e.g. including objects and embedded clauses), or may be restricted to certain contexts (e.g. following forms of the verb *be* and semantically related verbs). **Subject complements** (e.g. *She is a doctor*) may be distinguished from **object complements** (e.g. *She called him a nuisance*). In Generative Grammar, a complement is a sister constituent of a zero-level category. Categories other than the verb are also sometimes said to take complements (e.g. in *a student of linguistics,* where the *of*-phrase may be described as a complement of *a student*). See also **clause; extensive; predicate.**

complementarity A type of oppositeness of meaning, in which the assertion of one term implies the denial of the other, and there is no gradability of meaning between them (e.g. *single* vs. *married*). **Complementary terms** (or complementaries) are also sometimes known as **contradictory terms** (or contradictories). See also **antonymy.**

complementary distribution The mutual exclusiveness of a pair of sounds in a certain phonetic environment, as can be seen in the distribution of voiceless and voiced allophones of /l/ in English. The term is also sometimes used analogously in relation to other levels of language, such as morphology. See also **allophone; distribution.**

complementizer (COMP, C) A subordinating element which marks an embedded sentence of a complement type, e.g. *that* in *He said that I was angry*. The term is also used for the position in clause structure at which such items can occur. In Government and Binding Theory, COMP (or C) is a zero-level category whose maximal projection (CP) is the highest-level grammatical construction. See also **embedding; Government and Binding Theory.**

complete feedback See **feedback 1.**

complex noun phrase In generative grammar, a noun phrase with a clause as a complement or adjunct (e.g. *my view that you should leave*). See also **adjunct 2; complement.**

complex preposition See **preposition.**

complex sentence 1 A sentence consisting of more than one clause. 2 A sentence consisting of a main clause and at least one subordinate clause. See also **clause; sentence.**

complex symbol A symbol in a phrase-marker which has an internal structure of its own, generally comprising an unordered set of syntactic features. See also **feature; phrase-marker.**

component 1 A major section of the organization of a generative grammar, such as the 'phrase structure component' or the 'phonological component', often further analyzable into subsections, or **subcomponents.** See also **generative grammar.** 2 An irreducible feature in terms of which the sense of lexical items can be analyzed, e.g. *boy* can be analyzed into the semantic components 'human', 'child', 'male', etc. See also **componential analysis; lexicon.** 3 A constituent feature of any linguistic unit, whether in phonology, grammar, or semantics. See also **feature.**

componential analysis The analysis of a set of vocabulary items in terms of a semantic space structured by intersecting semantic dimensions (e.g. sex, generation), each of which is composed of semantic features. The approach was developed by ethnosemanticists in the 1960s, and was particularly used for the analysis of kinship terms. See also **component 2; ethnosemantics.**

compositionality In Montague Grammar, a semantic property of linguistic expressions: the meaning of a phrase is compositional if it is determined by the meanings of the constituent expressions, plus the syntactic structure of the phrase. See also **Montague Grammar.**

compound A linguistic unit composed of two or more elements, each of which could function independently in other circumstances. For example, a **compound word** consists of a combination of stem morphemes, as in Eng. *football*. A **compound sentence** consists of a combination of main clauses.

computational linguistics A branch of linguistics in which the techniques and concepts of computer science are applied to the elucidation of linguistic and phonetic problems. Research areas include speech synthesis, automatic translation, and the testing of grammars. See also **automata; concordance; Connectionism; Natural Language Processing.**

computer corpus See **corpus.**

concatenation The formal representation of a string of linguistic elements in a relationship of linear succession. See also **linearity; string.**

conceptualizer The component of a computational natural-language generator which is responsible for planning the meaning content and rhetorical organization of a text. It consists of a **macroplanner,** capable of structuring the contents of possibly extensive discourse units, and a **microplanner,** which deals with a few adjacent preverbal messages at a time. See also **formulator; language generation.**

conceptual metaphor See **metaphor.**

concord A formal relationship between linguistic element whereby a form of one word requires a corresponding for of another, as when in English a single subject co-occu with the third person singular form of the verb in the prese tense; traditionally also called agreement. See also **agre ment; government 1.**

concordance A list of words, usually organized alphabet cally, which shows the frequency, citations, and locatio for each word in a written text. Concordances are wide used in literary and linguistic computing.

condition A criterion which must be met before a particul analysis may be carried out. The term is especially used Transformational Grammar, referring to the factors whi constrain the application of particular transformations. S also **constraint; Transformational Grammar.**

conditional A clause or sentence whose semantic role is t expression of hypotheses, or circumstances under which statement may be valid. In English, this is typically int duced by *if* or *unless*. Some languages have distinctive ve forms for such sentences; these may be analyzed as con tional tenses or moods.

conditioning The process whereby the form of a linguis unit is partly or wholly determined by the linguistic cont in which it occurs; for example, in English the alveo phoneme /d/ becomes dental when followed by an interd tal fricative, as in *width*. See also **allo-.**

configurational language A language with a relatively fi word order and hierarchic constituent structure (e.g. glish); contrasts with **non-configurational languages,** wh have a relatively free word order and apparently flat c stituent structure (e.g. Latin). Non-configurational guages are also known as **W* (w-star) languages.** See **flat 1.**

congruence Correspondence between the decisions mad one level of analysis and those made at another (e.g. tween phonology and grammar, or between grammar semantics). The sentence is the unit where there is maxin **congruence of levels.** See also **level 1.**

CONJ An abbreviation for **conjunction,** often specifically **coordinating conjunction.**

conjoin In generative grammar, to coordinate two or m sentences, phrases, or words; contrasted with **embed** processes. The conjoined units may be referred to as **juncts.** See also **conjunction; coordination; embedd generative grammar.**

conjunct See **conjoin; conjunction.**

conjunction (CONJ) A word class whose primary func is to connect words or other constructions; traditio classified into **coordinating conjunctions** (e.g. *and*)

subordinating conjunctions (e.g. *because*). Adverbials whose function is primarily connective (e.g. *however*) may be referred to as **conjunctive adverbs** or **conjuncts.** See also **conjoin; coordination; subordination.**

conjunctive adverb See **conjunction.**

conjunctive ordering In generative phonology, the requirement that just one member of a set of alternatives be selected, indicated by the brace notation; thus $\{a,b\} = a$ or b, but not ab. By contrast, **disjunctive ordering** refers to a choice between one or more than one element, indicated by parentheses; thus $a(b) = a$ or ab, but not b.

Connectionism A computational framework for cognitive modeling, inspired by mathematical models of neural processing and by associationist psychology, based on numerical computation rather than on manipulation of symbols.

connective A word or morpheme whose primary function is to link linguistic units; examples include conjunctions, as well as certain adverbs and verbs (e.g. *moreover, be*). See **conjunction.**

connotation In linguistics, the emotional associations which are suggested by, and are thus part of the meaning of, a linguistic unit, especially a lexical item; also called **affective** or **emotive** meaning. **Denotation,** by contrast, is the relationship between a linguistic unit and the non-linguistic entities to which it refers. See also **affect; referent 1; semantics.**

consonant In phonetics, a speech sound produced by a relatively constricted or totally closed configuration of the vocal tract. In phonology, a unit of the sound system which typically occupies the margins of syllables. In both approaches, the term is contrasted with vowel. Sounds which are phonologically consonants but phonetically vowel-like (e.g. [j], [w]) are often called **semiconsonants** or **semivowels.** In Phonological Feature Theory, **consonantal** sounds are those produced with a major obstruction in the middle of the vocal tract, with low acoustic energy, [+consonantal] contrasting with [−consonantal]. See also **contoid; major class feature; Phonological Feature Theory; syllable; vowel.**

consonantal See **consonant.**

consonant harmony See **harmony.**

conspiracy In generative phonology, a phenomenon whereby several rules act together to produce a specific result. See also **phonology; rule.**

constant See **opposition.**

constative In **Speech Act Theory,** characteristic of an utterance which is a descriptive statement, capable of being analyzed in terms of truth values; contrasts with **performative.** See also **performative; speech act.**

constituent A linguistic unit which is a component of a larger construction. **Constituent analysis** is the process of analyzing sentences into a series of hierarchically organized constituents. The major divisions made at a given level are the **immediate constituents (ICs);** the irreducible elements resulting from this process of analysis are the **ultimate constituents (UCs).** Various notations are available for representing the **constituent structure** of a sentence, such as bracketing and tree diagrams. A grammar which analyzes sentences in this way is a **constituent-structure grammar** or **constituency grammar.** Constituent-based grammars need to be distinguished from those which do not recognize constituents, such as **dependency grammars.** See also **bracketing; hierarchy; tree.**

constraint A condition which restricts the application of a rule, to ensure that the sentences generated are well-formed. More generally, a linguistic theory needs to be maximally constrained, in order to restrict the class of potential grammars. See also **condition; filter; generative grammar.**

constricted In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of a relatively closed state of the glottis; opposed to **spread.** See also **constriction 1; glottal; laryngeal activity.**

constriction 1 A narrowing within the **vocal tract.** Different kinds and degrees of constriction are the basis of the articulatory classification of sound qualities. See also **articulation; vocal tract.** 2 See **glottal.**

constructional homonymity See **structural ambiguity.**

consultant A native speaker of a language who acts as a source of linguistic data. This term is now often used instead of informant, which some people find offensive. See also **field work; informant.**

contact See **language contact.**

contact clause A type of relative clause with no relative pronoun, so that the clause is directly in contact with the head noun (e.g. *the car I saw*). See also **relative.**

contact language See **pidgin.**

contentive See **empty word.**

content word See **empty word.**

context 1 The parts of an utterance near or adjacent to a unit which is the focus of attention; putting a unit into its context is the process of **contextualization.** In generative grammar, forms can be classified in terms of whether they occur only within a specific context—**context-sensitive, -restricted,** or **-dependent**—or are independent of context, i.e. **context-free.** A **context-free grammar** is one where all the rules apply regardless of context; a **context-sensitive grammar** requires the specification of a structural context for the rules to apply. See also **generative grammar.** 2 The features of the non-linguistic world in relation to which linguistic units are systematically used; also called **situational context.** Within this broad notion, several narrower uses of the term may be found. **Contextual meaning** is the use a linguistic unit has in its social context, e.g. in relation to such factors as age, sex, or occupation of the speaker. In Firthian linguistics, the set of external-world features

considered to be relevant in the analysis of an utterance is the **context of situation.** See also **meaning.**

contextual feature In the Standard Theory of generative grammar, a type of feature within a lexical entry, providing information as to where in a deep-structure representation the lexical item can occur; contrasts with inherent feature and rule feature. Contextual features are subclassified into category features, strict subcategorization features, and selectional features. See also **deep structure; inherent feature; lexicon; rule feature; selectional feature; Standard Theory; subcategorization.**

contextual variant See **allo-.**

continuant In Phonological Feature Theory, a stricture type in which a sound is made with an incomplete closure of the vocal tract, as with vowels, resonants, and fricatives; contrasts with **non-continant, discontinuous, interrupted,** or **stop,** where sounds are produced with a complete closure. See also **manner of articulation; Phonological Feature Theory; stricture type.**

continuity hypothesis See **discontinuity hypothesis.**

continuous See **progressive.**

contoid A sound made by a complete closure in the vocal tract, or by a narrowing sufficiently great to cause audible friction; contrasts with **vocoid,** where there is no such closure or narrowing. These terms were introduced by Kenneth Pike as part of a phonetic approach to the description of sounds, and were distinguished from the phonological definitions given to consonant and vowel. See also **consonant; vowel.**

contour A distinctive configuration of tones in an utterance, usually classified into such contrasts as 'rising' and 'falling'; also called a **pitch contour** or **intonation contour.** In transformational grammar, an assigned sequence of stresses is called a **stress contour.** Rising and falling tones are sometimes called **contour tones.** See also **intonation; tone.**

contraction **1** The phonological reduction of a linguistic form so that it comes to be attached to an adjacent form (e.g. English *I'm*), or the fusion of a sequence of forms so that they appear as a single form (French *du,* from **de le*). **2** See **ellipsis.**

contradictory term See **complementarity.**

contrafactive A type of verb which is associated with a complement clause, and in which the speaker presupposes the falsity of the proposition expressed in that clause (e.g. *I wish they would work hard*); contrasts with factive verbs. See also **factive.**

contrary term See **antonymy.**

contrast Difference between linguistic units, especially that which serves to distinguish meanings in a language. Such difference, which may be recognized at any linguistic level, may also be referred to as **distinctive, functional,** or **significant.** See also **level 1; meaning.**

contrastive analysis The identification of points of structural similarity and difference between two languages, to identify areas of potential difficulty, i.e. interference or negative transfer, in the learning of one or other of the languages. See also **interference; transfer.**

contrastive rhetoric The study of the way in which the organization of written text differs substantially among languages. See also **discourse.**

control In syntactic theory, the relation between an understood subject and the argument which supplies its interpretation; the complement subject is **controlled** by a matrix argument, the **controller.** See also **Control Theory.**

Control Agreement Principle In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, a principle that matches agreement features between locally-connected agreeing categories (e.g. between a subject noun phrase and its verb phrase sister). See also **agreement; Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

Control Theory A domain of Government and Binding Theory which determines the potential for reference of the abstract pronominal element PRO. Certain uses of PRO are **controlled;** for example, after *promise,* the subject of an embedded infinitive clause is under the control of the main clause subject, its **controller.** Uses of PRO which have arbitrary reference are **uncontrolled.** See also **control; Government and Binding Theory; PRO.**

conventional implicature See **implicature.**

convergence **1** A process of linguistic change in which dialects become more like each other, usually when a non-standard variety becomes more like the standard; contrasts with **divergence,** where dialects become less like each other. Geographically adjacent speech communities are sometimes referred to as **convergence areas.** See also **dialect; standard.** **2** In historical linguistics, the merging of forms which at an earlier stage of a language were contrastive; also called **merger;** contrasts with **divergence,** where a form splits into two functional units. See also **syncretism.**

Conversation Analysis (CA) The discovery and description of the methods people use to engage in conversation and other forms of social interaction involving speech. It usually implies that verbal exchanges are viewed as a fundamental form of social organization. See also **adjacency pair; Cooperative Principle; turn.**

conversational implicature See **implicature.**

conversational inference In interactional sociolinguistics, the making of predictions about what will come next in a conversation, based on the interpretation of ongoing talk in the light of previous interactive experience. See **interactional sociolinguistics.**

conversational switching See **code-switching.**

converseness A type of oppositeness of meaning, in which one member of a pair of terms presupposes the other, as with *buy/sell* or *employer/employee.* See also **antonymy.**

conversion A process of word formation in which an item comes to belong to a new word class without the addition

of an affix, as with *(a) bottle* vs. *(to) bottle;* also called **functional shift.**

Cooperative Principle A conversational principle which states that speakers try to cooperate with each other when communicating; in particular, they will try to be informative, truthful, relevant, and clear. Listeners will normally assume that a speaker is following these criteria. See also **implicature; Maxims of Conversation.**

coordination The linking of linguistic units which are usually of equivalent syntactic status (e.g. a series of clauses); contrasts with subordination, where the units are not equivalent. **Coordinate clauses** are illustrated by *The sun shone and the birds sang*. Items which signal coordination are **coordinators** or **coordinating conjunctions.** See also **subordination.**

copula A verb with little or no independent meaning, whose primary function is to link elements of clause structure, typically subject and complement, as semantically equivalent; also called a **linking verb.** *Be* is the main **copular verb** in English. See also **extensive; verb.**

copying In transformational grammar, a syntactic operation which adds a duplicate of a constituent in a phrase-marker to some other part of the phrase-marker, as in the formation of **tag** questions. See also **tag 1.**

copy tag See **checking tag.**

core A constituent of syllable structure comprising the nucleus and the coda; more usually referred to as the **rhyme** (or **rime**). See also **coda; syllable.**

core grammar The universal set of linguistic principles which characterize all the unmarked grammatical principles found in language. A rule which conforms to these principles is a **core rule;** one which does not is a **non-core rule.** By contrast, the **periphery** of a grammar contains details of dialect and idiolect, and particular constructional properties of a language not represented in universal grammar. See also **generative grammar; universal.**

coreference Sameness of reference between two or more constituents in a sentence, as in *I said I would go,* where the two subjects are **coreferential.** Differences of reference interpretation can be shown by coindexing, using **referential indices,** as in *He*$_i$ *said he*$_i$ *would go* vs. *He*$_i$ *said he*$_j$ *would go*. See also **coindexing; referent 2.**

Corepresentational Grammar A type of grammar, developed in the 1970s as an alternative to transformational grammar, which represents both syntactic and semantic aspects of a sentence's internal relations in a single structure.

coronal In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of a consonantal sound made using the tip or blade of the tongue; [+coronal] sounds contrast with [−coronal] sounds, where the tongue blade is in neutral position, as in labials and velars. See also **alveolar; dental; Phonological Feature Theory.**

corpus A collection of linguistic data, either as written texts or as a transcription of recorded speech. **Corpora** can be used as a means of verifying hypotheses about language, or as a starting-point for a linguistic description. **Corpus linguistics** deals with the principles and practice of using corpora in linguistic study. A **computer corpus** is a large body of naturally occurring, machine-readable texts (or text extracts) used for research and also for the development of software for Natural Language Processing. See also **Natural Language Processing.**

corpus planning See **language planning.**

correlation In Prague School phonology, a systematic relationship between two series of sounds; for example, voicing is the mark of 'correlation' between voiceless and voiced plosive sounds in English.

correspondence A systematic similarity of form between words or structures in related languages. See also **comparative linguistics.**

Correspondence Hypothesis A psycholinguistic hypothesis, proposed in the 1960s, that the sequence of rules used in the grammatical derivation of a sentence corresponds to the sequence of psychological processes that takes place in speech production and speech perception. See also **derivation 2; psycholinguistics.**

Correspondence Theory In semantics, the view that there is a direct relationship between a linguistic form and the entity it denotes, as illustrated by the existence of onomatopoeic words (e.g. *splash*). This is often called the **correspondence fallacy,** in terms of the orthodox view that the relationship between words and entities is arbitrary. See also **iconic relationship; meaning; phonesthetics; sound symbolism.**

co-text The sentential environment in which an item occurs. The term is an attempt to remove the ambiguity of the term context, which is often used in a non-linguistic sense, referring to the situational environment. See also **context.**

countability A contrast in the grammatical classification of nouns: **countable nouns** or **count nouns** denote what the language treats as separable entities, by use with such forms as *a, many,* and the numbers. **Uncountable nouns,** also called **non-count** or **mass nouns,** are treated as continuous entities, having no natural bounds, by use with such forms as *much* or *some*. Many nouns can be used in both contexts.

counterfactual A type of conditional sentence which refers to a totally hypothetical situation, such as *If he had gone by bus, he would have arrived on time*. This contrasts with 'real' conditionals, such as *If he's gone by bus, he'll be there by now*. See also **conditional.**

covered In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a sound produced with a narrowed, tensed pharynx and raised larynx. See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

covert A relationship between linguistic forms which is not observable in the surface structure of a sentence, but which

emerges only when sets of sentences are brought into relationship with each other (as with the transformational link between active and passive); contrasts with **overt**. See also **surface structure**.

covert prestige See **overt prestige**.

CP The abbreviation for **complementizer phrase** in recent Government and Binding Theory. See **complementizer**.

creaky voice A vocal effect produced by a very slow vibration of only one end of the vocal folds; also called **creak** or **laryngealization**. Because the sound produced somewhat resembles that of frying, the effect has been described as **vocal fry**. See also **phonation; voice quality 1**.

creativity See **productivity**.

creole A pidgin language which has become the mother tongue of a speech community. The process of expanding the structural and stylistic range of the pidgin is called **creolization**. A process of **decreolization** takes place when the standard language begins to exert influence on the creole, and a whole range of varieties emerges to form a continuum between the standard and the creole, called a **post-creole continuum**. See also **pidgin**.

critical linguistics An approach to language analysis that aims to reveal hidden power relations and ideological processes at work in linguistic texts; especially encountered in **critical discourse analysis**, the analysis of texts in relation to the social context of their production and interpretation. See also **stylistics**.

Crossover Constraint A principle restricting the operation of certain transformations which move a noun phrase. In one formulation, a transformation does not apply to a phrase-marker if it results in a noun phrase crossing another with which it is coreferential; for example, passivization does not apply to reflexive sentences, such as *John shaved himself*. See also **coreference**.

c-structure In Lexical-Functional Grammar, the abbreviation for **constituent structure**, the surface structure of a sentence; contrasts with **f-structure** or **functional structure**, which provides an analysis of the sentence in terms of grammatical functions such as subject and object. See also **Lexical-Functional Grammar**.

CV The abbreviation for **cardinal vowel** or for a **consonant-vowel** sequence.

CV Phonology A model of phonology which adds a consonant (C) and vowel (V) tier to the syllabic and segmental tiers previously recognized in Autosegmental Phonology. See also **Autosegmental Phonology; tier**.

CV-tier See **skeletal tier**.

cycle A principle in transformational grammar which allows rules to be applied in a repeated ordered way to sections of a phrase-marker; also called the **transformational cycle** or the **cyclic principle**. **Cyclic rules** are reduced in number in later versions of transformational syntax. In Extended Standard Theory, **post-cyclic rules** are recognized, referring to a type of transformation which applies after cyclic rules have been completed. The application of cyclic transformations is limited by the **Strict Cycle Condition**: no rule can apply to a constituent J in such a way as to affect solely a sub-constituent of J. See also **Extended Standard Theory; transformation**.

D An abbreviation for **determiner** (in such contexts as **DP** for **determiner phrase**) or for **diacritic feature**.

DA The abbreviation for **discourse analysis**.

DAF The abbreviation for **delayed auditory feedback**; see **feedback**.

dark See **clear**.

dative An inflectional category of case, often assumed by a noun phrase (typically, a single noun or pronoun) when it expresses an **indirect object** relationship, or a range of meanings similar to those expressed by the prepositions *to* and *for* in English. See also **case; inflection 1; object**.

daughter adjunction See **adjunction**.

Daughter Dependency Grammar A type of grammar based on a system of syntactic features and dependency relations, with a single level of syntactic representation. The 'vertical' constituency relations between nodes in a phrase-marker are the **daughter dependencies**; they are distinguished from the 'horizontal' relations (of subject-verb, etc.), which are called **sister dependencies**. See also **Dependency Grammar**.

decipherment The decoding of a writing system which is no longer in use and no longer comprehensible.

decision procedure A theoretical goal of formal linguistics, providing a technique that can be automatically applied to a series of grammars of a language, to decide which is the best grammar. See also **evaluation procedure**.

declarative 1 Characteristic of a verb form or sentence/clause type typically used in the expression of a statement, as contrasted with questions and commands. See also **indicative; mood; statement**. 2 See **formalism**.

declination See **downdrift**.

decreolization See **creole**.

deep structure In transformational grammar, the abstract syntactic representation of a sentence, specifying the factors which govern its interpretation; contrasts with **surface structure**. Sometimes referred to as **remote structure**. See also **D-structure; surface structure; transformational grammar; underlying**.

defining See **restrictiveness**.

definite article See **article**.

definiteness A feature of noun phrases, allowing a contrast between an entity (or class of entities) which is **definite**, i.e. specific and identifiable, and one which is **indefinite** or **non-definite**. The contrast is generally conveyed through the use of a definite/indefinite **determiner**, especially the definite/indefinite article. See also **article**.

degree A grammatical category which specifies the extent of a comparison between adjectives or adverbs. A three-

way contrast is usually recognized among **positive, comparative,** and **superlative,** as in *big/bigger/biggest;* but other possibilities exist, such as the **equative** construction illustrated by *as big as*. See also **comparative.**

deixis A grammatical category which refers directly to the personal, temporal, or locational characteristics of the situation within which an utterance takes place, and whose meaning is thus relative to that situation; also often called **indexicality.** The main categories of **deictic form** (or indexical expression) are **person deixis** (e.g. first person pronouns), **spatial deixis** (e.g. locative adverbs), **temporal deixis** (e.g. *today, now*), **discourse deixis** (where words refer backward or forward in the utterance, e.g. *the following*), and **social deixis** (the encoding of social distinctions that relate to participant roles, as in the use of pronouns, vocatives, and honorifics). See also **discourse; pronoun.**

delayed auditory feedback See **feedback.**

delayed release See **abrupt release.**

deletion An operation in transformational grammar which eliminates a constituent of an input phrase-marker; for example (in early models), the subject is deleted as part of the derivation of an English imperative sentence. See also **transformation.**

delicacy In Systemic Grammar, a dimension of analysis which recognizes increasing depth of detail; for example, an increasingly delicate analysis of clauses would recognize affirmative vs. interrogative types, and these would be further analyzed into subtypes. See also **Systemic Grammar.**

delta symbol In some models of transformational grammar, a dummy element (Δ) in the generation of deep structures, marking the places in an initial phrase-marker where lexical items are later to be inserted. See also **dummy.**

demibeat See **beat.**

demotion In Relational Grammar, a class of relation-changing processes: a noun phrase bearing a particular grammatical relation to some verb comes to bear a relation which is lower down the relational hierarchy (e.g. a subject becoming an object). See also **Relational Grammar.**

denasalization See **nasalization.**

denotation See **connotation; referent 1.**

dental Characteristic of a consonant sound made by contact between the tongue tip or blade and the upper incisor teeth, like French *t* and *d*. Sometimes used loosely to include alveolar consonants as well. Sounds made by the tongue tip between the teeth, like the 'th' sounds of such words as English *thin* and *the,* are sometimes called **interdental.** See also **alveolar; apical; coronal; laminal.**

deontic modality A type of modality concerned with the logic of obligation and permission; for example, in *The car must be ready,* the deontic interpretation would be 'I insist that the car is ready,' contrasting with alethic and epistemic interpretations: 'It follows that the car is ready' and 'Surely the car is ready,' respectively. See also **alethic modality; epistemic modality; mood.**

Dependency Grammar A type of formal grammar which establishes types of dependencies between the elements of a construction as a means of explaining grammatical relationships. Syntactic structure is represented using **dependency trees**—sets of nodes whose interconnections specify structural relations. Each tree contains a **governor** and a set of **dependents,** each bearing a specific relation to the governor. **Dependency rules** specify the governing and dependent relations into which each class of unit may enter. See also **Daughter Dependency Grammar; Dependency Phonology; government 3; node.**

Dependency Phonology An approach to phonology which makes use of the principles of Dependency Grammar to set up a model of the internal relational structure of segments. The syllable is viewed as a dependency structure, with a **governor** and dependents. Degree of dependency is represented vertically, in a **dependency graph.** A somewhat more abstract representation of the primitive elements of segments is provided by **particle phonology.** See also **Dependency Grammar; gesture; government 3; syllable.**

dependent clause See **subordination.**

derivation **1** A major type of word formation, the domain of **derivational morphology,** whereby **derivational affixes** are used to form new words (e.g. *judge, judgment*); contrasts with inflection, the use of affixes to form variants of the same word (cf. *judge, judges*). See also **affixation; inflection 1; morphology.** **2** In generative grammar, the set of formally identifiable stages used in generating a sentence from an initial symbol to a terminal string. In a narrower sense, a **derived structure** refers to the form of an output phrase-marker, after a transformational rule has been applied. See also **generative grammar; phrase-marker.** **3** In historical linguistics, the origins or historical development of a language or a linguistic form. See also **etymology.**

derivational morphology See **morphology.**

description A systematic, objective, and precise account of the patterns and use of a specific language or variety. The aim of **descriptive linguistics** is to account for the facts of linguistic usage as they are, in a particular language, and not how they ought to be, as imagined by **prescriptive** grammarians. A **descriptive grammar** may also be contrasted with a theoretical grammar, in which the aim is to make general statements about language as a whole. See also **grammar 1; prescriptivism.**

descriptive adequacy See **adequacy.**

desiderative A grammatical category of mood, referring to a verb form or sentence/clause type used for the expression of wants and desires; usually found in contrast with indicative, imperative, etc. See also **mood.**

DET Abbreviation for **determiner.**

determiner (DET, D) A grammatical element whose main

role is to co-occur with nouns to express such semantic elements as quantity and number; for example, *the, a, this, some, much.* The term is sometimes extended to include other types of word within the noun phrase, e.g. adjectives. In some models of generative grammar, the determiner is regarded as a head when combined with a noun, to produce a **determiner phrase** (DP). See also **article; definiteness; generative grammar; head; predeterminer.**

developmental linguistics A branch of linguistics concerned with the study of the acquisition of language in children; the continuing relevance of psychological factors in this study motivates the alternative name **developmental psycholinguistics.** See also **acquisition.**

deviance Lack of conformity to the rules of a grammar. Deviant sentences are conventionally marked with an initial asterisk. See also **acceptability.**

devoicing See **voicing.**

dia- A prefix used when a dialectal frame of reference is required. **Dialinguistics** is the study of the range of dialects and languages used in a speech community. A **diasystem** is a network of formal relationships which shows the common linguistic system assumed to underlie two or more dialects. Diasystemic units can be identified in this approach; for example, a **diaphone** is a phonological unit which identifies equivalences between the sound systems of different dialects. See also **dialect.**

diachronic linguistics An approach to linguistics which studies languages from the viewpoint of their development through time; also called **historical linguistics.** Ferdinand de Saussure introduced the contrast between this approach and **synchronic linguistics,** where languages are studied at a theoretical single point in time, disregarding whatever changes might be taking place. See also **comparative linguistics; philology.**

diacritic A mark added to a symbol in a phonetic transcription to alter its value; for example, the use of a small circle under a symbol indicates devoicing. Diacritics are also used in certain alphabets, in the form of accent marks. See also **accent; transcription.**

diacritic feature In Generative Phonology, a feature ([D]) introduced into the derivation of formatives to account for the apparently exceptional behavior of segments.

dialect A regionally or socially distinctive variety of a language, characterized by a particular set of words and grammatical structures, and often associated with a distinctive pronunciation or accent. The systematic study of dialect (especially regional dialect) is **dialectology** or **dialect geography;** a distinction is often drawn between **rural** and **urban dialects.** Regional dialect forms are generally plotted on maps in a **dialect atlas. Social dialectology** is the application of dialectological methods to the study of social structure, focusing on group membership as a determinant of dialectal competence and on the identification of **social** or **class dialects. Structural dialectology** is the study of the patterns of relationship which link sets of forms from different dialects. The term 'dialect' is also sometimes extended to other types of variety, such as the distinctive language of a group of workers (occupational dialect) or of a particular period of time (historical dialect). See also **accent; dia-; dialectometry; geolinguistics; lect; sociolinguistics; variety.**

dialectometry A statistical method of analyzing **dialect;** it measures the 'linguistic distance' between individual localities in a dialect region by counting the number of contrasts in a large sample of linguistic features. See also **dialect.**

dialinguistics See **dia-.**

dialogism A concept introduced by Mikhail Bakhtin to refer to the way that a text can be seen not as a reflection of culture, but as an instrument by which social life may be interactively and verbally accomplished. In the study of literary narrative, the term does not refer to conversations between characters, but rather to the dialog implicit in the relationship between the author and the characters. See also **narrative; text.**

diaphone See **dia-.**

diasystem See **dia-.**

diffuse See **compact.**

diglossia A sociolinguistic situation where two very different varieties of a language co-occur throughout a speech community, each standardized to some degree, and each performing an individual range of social functions. The varieties are usually described as **high (H)** and **low (L),** corresponding broadly to a difference in formality. See also **formality.**

digraph A graphic unit in which two symbols are combined to function as a single element in a system; for example, the linked *a+e* which is used in phonetic transcription for the low front vowel [æ] of English *cat.*

diminutive A derivational category, usually expressed as an affix, with the general meaning of 'little'; used either literally or metaphorically (often, as a term of endearment), e.g. Italian *-ino* and English *-let.* The term is usually contrasted with **augmentative,** where the general meaning is 'large', often implying awkwardness or ugliness, e.g. Italian *-one.*

diphthong See **monophthong.**

direct elicitation See **elicitation.**

directive An utterance whose purpose is to get other people to do something for the speaker, as by a command, or by the use of specific vocabulary (e.g. *Will you . . . ?*). See also **speech act.**

direct object See **object.**

direct speech The narrative use of actual utterance, with no grammatical modification, e.g. *He asked, 'Are they here?'* (a direct question). The term contrasts with **indirect speech** or **reported speech,** where the words of the speaker are subordinated to a verb in the main clause, e.g. *He asked if they were here* (an indirect question).

disambiguation The demonstration, by formal grammatical

means, that a sentence has alternative structural interpretations. See also **ambiguity.**

Discontinuity Hypothesis A hypothesis advanced by Roman Jakobson that the sounds of babbling bear no direct relationship to later phonological development. The view contrasts with a **Continuity Hypothesis,** which argues that languages gradually select from the range of sounds used in babbling. See also **acquisition.**

discontinuous See **continuant.**

discontinuous construction A construction which has been split by the insertion of another grammatical unit; examples include the separation of the particle from the verb in certain phrasal verbs (e.g. *switch the light off*), or the use of a two-part negative construction (e.g. French *ne . . . pas*). See also **phrasal verb.**

discourse A continuous stretch of language larger than a sentence, often forming a coherent unit; the study of such stretches is called **discourse analysis** (DA) or **discourse linguistics.** In a broader sense, discourse knowledge refers to the whole set of norms, preferences, and expectations relating language to context, allowing users to produce and interpret the **discourse structures** of their language (conversations, narratives, requests, arguments, etc.). **Discourse markers** are sequentially dependent elements which bracket units of talk (e.g. *Well; I mean*). **Text** is often used in the same sense, but 'discourse' can be used to focus on the sociolinguistic functions of larger units, especially within speech, while 'text' focuses on the formal structure of larger units, especially within writing. The term **discourse grammar** has also come to be used by those seeking to develop a model which would incorporate principles of a functional kind, as an alternative to the generativist conception of an autonomous formal grammar. See also **Conversation Analysis; critical linguistics; Discourse Representation Theory; narrative; text.**

discourse competence See **competence.**

Discourse Representation Theory A theory which extends Model-Theoretic Semantics to accommodate sequences of sentences, particularly anaphoric dependencies across sentence boundaries. It makes use of an intermediate level of semantic representation called a **Discourse Representation Structure** (DRS). See also **anaphora; Model-Theoretic Semantics.**

discovery procedure A set of putative techniques which can be mechanically applied to a sample of language to produce a correct grammatical analysis.

discreteness A suggested defining property of human language, whereby the elements of a signal can be analyzed as having definable boundaries, with no continuity between them. A system lacking discreteness is said to be **non-discrete.** See also **gradability; non-discrete grammar.**

disjunct In some approaches to English grammar, a subclass of adverbial, containing such items as *frankly* and *really;* this contrasts with other subclasses (conjuncts, subjuncts, and adjuncts) on syntactic and semantic grounds. See also **adverbial; conjunction; subjunct.**

disjunction **1** The relating of two propositions so that they are in an 'either/or' relationship, e.g. *(Either) John is late or Mary is early.* In such cases, the interpretations may be **inclusive** (either or both of the propositions is true) or **exclusive** (only one proposition is true). **2** A grammatical process whose primary function is to mark a relationship of contrast or comparison between structures, using such items as *but* or *or.* See also **coordination.**

disjunctive ordering See **conjunctive ordering.**

displacement A suggested defining property of human language, whereby language can be used to refer to contexts removed from the immediate situation of the speaker (**displaced speech**).

dissimilation The influence exercised by one sound segment upon the articulation of another, so that the sounds become less alike; for example, /r/ has become /l/ in the derivation of English *pilgrim* from Latin *peregrinus*; contrasts with assimilation. See also **assimilation.**

distinctiveness The property of any feature which enables a meaningful contrast to be made between linguistic units; distinctive contrasts are also called **relevant, functional,** or **significant** contrasts. The main use of the term has been in phonology, where **distinctive feature** refers to a minimal contrastive unit postulated to explain how the sound system of a language is organized. See also **contrast.**

distinctiveness ratio A measure used in stylometry by Alvar Ellegård to determine the proportions of favorite and non-favorite words in an author or text. See also **stylistics.**

distributed In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a sound where the articulation involves a relatively great length along the blade of the tongue; contrasts with **non-distributed,** where a lesser length is involved. See also **coronal.**

distribution The total set of linguistic contexts in which a unit can occur. A **distributional analysis** plots the places in larger linguistic units where smaller units occur, such as the distribution of phonemes within the syllable or word. See also **complementary distribution.**

disyllable A phonetic or phonological unit consisting of two syllables.

ditransitive Characteristic of a verb which can take both direct and indirect objects (e.g. *give*); contrasts with **monotransitive,** where the verb takes only one object (e.g. *kick*). See also **transitivity.**

divergence See **convergence.**

DO An abbreviation for **direct object.**

domination A type of vertical relationship between nodes in a tree diagram: if no node intervenes between node X and node Y, the relationship is one of **direct** or immediate dominance; if node X immediately dominates no other node, the relationship is one of **exhaustive dominance. Immediate-dominance rules** are one of the components of

a Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar. See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; immediate dominance; node; precedence; tree.**

donkey sentence A type of problematic sentence, typically illustrated by *Every man who owns a donkey beats it*: here the pronoun must be construed as dependent upon the noun phrase *a donkey,* without allowing that phrase to have wider scope than the universal quantification expressed by *every*. See also **quantifier.**

dorsal Characteristic of any sound made with the back or **dorsum** of the tongue in contact with the roof of the mouth. The term is also recognized as a type of phonological feature.

double articulation A property of language, referring to the two levels of structure in which language is organized; the term was introduced by André Martinet. The first level of articulation comprises the meaningful forms of language; the second level of articulation comprises the meaningless sound units of language which combine to form units of the first level. See also **duality of structure.**

double-bar In X-bar Theory, a full phrasal category, the maximal projection of a zero-level category; distinguished from a **single-bar** category. **X-double-bar** is normally written $\overline{\overline{X}}$ or, for greater typographic ease, X″. See also **bar; projection; X-bar Theory; zero.**

double-base transformation A type of transformation recognized in early models of generative grammar, where the rule operates with an input of two or more terminal strings; also called a **generalized transformation.** This contrasts with a **single-base** or **singulary transformation,** where only one string is involved. See also **transformation.**

downdrift The gradual descent of high-pitched tones throughout an intonation unit, as in many African languages; also called **declination.** A distinction is sometimes drawn between **downdrift** as phonologically conditioned lowering and **downstep** as phonologically unconditioned lowering. Downdrift and downstep are referred to collectively as **register-lowering** or **key-lowering.**

downgrading A grammatical process in which a unit in a hierarchy is embedded within a unit from a lower level; for example, the sentence *I'm all right, Jack* is downgraded to adjectival status in *That's an I'm-all-right-Jack point of view*.

downstep See **downdrift.**

DP The abbreviation for **determiner phrase.**

drag chain See **chain 3.**

DRS The abbreviation for **Discourse Representation Structure;** see **Discourse Representation Theory.**

D-structure An alternative conception to deep structure, in recent transformational grammar; its primary function is the representation of those structural aspects of sentences in which thematic roles are directly assigned. See **theta role.** D-structures are defined by the categorial component of the grammar and the lexicon, and are transformed into S-structures by a possible multiple application of a single mapping, Move alpha. See also **categorial component; deep structure; Move alpha; S-structure.**

dual See **number.**

duality of structure A suggested defining property of human language, which sees language as structurally organized into two abstract levels. At one level, language is analyzed into combinations of meaningful units (such as words and morphemes); at the other level, it is analyzed as a sequence of phonological segments which lack meaning. See also **double articulation.**

dummy A semantically empty grammatical element introduced into a structure or an analysis to ensure that a grammatical sentence is produced; for example, *do* acts as a **dummy auxiliary** in English questions like *Do you smoke?* In transformational grammar, **dummy symbols** may occur in the deep structure of a sentence, but never appear in the sentence's surface structure. In Government and Binding Theory, the term refers to elements in A[rgument]-position with no theta role; also called **expletive.** See also **argument; delta symbol; Government and Binding Theory; theta role.**

durative In the grammatical analysis of aspect, a category expressing an event that involves a period of time; contrasts with **non-durative** or **punctual,** where there is no duration implied. See also **aspect; progressive.**

dynamic linguistics The study of language variation from a temporal point of view: **synchronic** states are seen in terms of the **diachronic** processes of change which produce and affect them, such as the relative rate and direction of change. See also **diachronic linguistics.**

dynamic tone A tone which varies in pitch range, e.g. rising or falling-rising; also called a **kinetic** or **contour tone.** This contrasts with a **static** or **level tone,** which maintains the same pitch level throughout. See also **pitch; tone.**

dynamic verb A type of verb which typically occurs in the progressive form and in the imperative, and which expresses such meanings as activity, process, or bodily sensation. This contrasts with a **stative** (also static or state) verb, which does not usually occur in the progressive nor in the imperative, and expresses a state of affairs rather than an action (e.g. a relational, perceptual, or cognitive process). Dynamic verbs include *run, kick,* and *change;* stative verbs include *know, seem,* and *suppose*.

dyslexia See **alexia.**

dysphasia A disturbance in the ability to use spoken language as a result of focal brain damage; sometimes contrasted with aphasia. The term **developmental dysphasia** is also used in the context of children. See also **aphasia.**

e In generative grammar, the abbreviation for an 'empty' category, with no phonological content. See also **generative grammar.**

E In recent generative linguistics, the abbreviation for **externalized,** in the phrase **E(xternalized)-language.**

ear-training A technique in phonetics which trains aspiring phoneticians to discriminate and identify the whole range of human speech sounds.

echo A type of sentence which repeats, in whole or in part, what has just been said by another speaker; also called an **echo utterance.** For example, B's response to A in the following sequence is an **echo-question:** *A: I said yes. B: You said what?'*.

ECP The abbreviation for **Empty Category Principle.**

***-ed* form** An abstract label for the simple past tense form of the English verb *(I walked, I ran).*

educational linguistics The application of linguistics to the teaching and learning of a native language, in both spoken and written forms, in schools or other educational settings; more broadly, the application of linguistics to all contexts of teaching; also called **pedagogical linguistics.**

egressive Characteristic of a speech sound produced using an outward-moving airstream, the norm for speech production; contrasts with **ingressive,** where the air moves towards the lungs. See also **glottalic airstream; pulmonic airstream.**

ejective A type of consonant produced with the glottalic airstream mechanism. An occlusion is made in the vocal tract while the vocal folds are brought together, impounding the air. The closed glottis is then elevated, increasing air pressure; when the occlusion is released, an egressive airstream is produced, which can be used to make ejective stops, fricatives, or affricates, sometimes called 'glottalized' stops, etc. See also **glottalic airstream.**

E-language The abbreviation for **externalized language,** a term suggested by Noam Chomsky for a collection of sentences understood independently of the properties of the mind; contrasts with **I-language** or **internalized language,** which refers to language viewed as an element of the mind of a speaker-hearer.

elative An inflectional category of case which expresses the meaning of motion 'away from (inside)' a place; often contrasts with ablative 'from outside'. See also **ablative; case; inflection 1.**

electromyography The study of muscular contractions during speech, using electrodes applied to the muscles found in the vocal tract; the results are recorded as visual traces (electromyograms). See also **articulatory phonetics.**

electropalatography The study of the contacts between tongue and palate during speech, using an artificial palate containing electrodes which register the contacts as they are made; the results are presented visually as **electropalatograms.** See also **articulatory phonetics; palate.**

elicitation A method of obtaining reliable linguistic data from native speakers—either utterances or judgments about utterances; also called **direct elicitation.** Several techniques have been devised to obtain (**elicit**) this information in an indirect and unselfconscious way. See also **informant.**

elision The omission of sounds, syllables, or words in connected speech (e.g. *boys 'n' girls*); contrasts with intrusion. See also **apheresis; apocope; intrusion; syncope.**

ellipsis A sentence where part of the structure has been omitted, for reasons of economy, emphasis, or style; also sometimes called **reduction, contraction,** or **abbreviation.** Typically, the omitted element can be recovered from a scrutiny of the context, as in *A: Where was she going? B: To the library.* A clause that lacks one or more of the elements required for it to be used as a full independent construction is sometimes called a **reduced clause.** See also **sentence.**

Elsewhere Condition In generative phonology, a condition which states that when two principles of operation are in conflict at a certain point in a derivation, the one whose domain of operation is more restricted has priority of action.

embedding In generative grammar, the process of including one sentence within another; or a construction where this operation has taken place (e.g. a relative clause within a noun phrase). See also **matrix sentence; self-embedding.**

emic/etic Terms which characterize contrasting approaches to the study of linguistic data. An **etic** approach is one where the physical patterns of language are described with a minimum of reference to their function within the language system. An **emic** approach takes full account of functional relationships, setting up systems of contrastive units. See also **contrast; phonemics; phonetics.**

emotive meaning See **affect.**

Empty Category Principle In Government and Binding Theory, the principle that a trace needs to be properly governed, either by a lexical category or by a category with the same **index.** See also **government 2; Government and Binding Theory; indexing; trace.**

empty element A meaningless element introduced into a structure to ensure its grammaticality; for example, 'empty *it*', in such sentences as *It's raining;* also called a prop word or dummy. In Generative Grammar, **empty nodes** are displayed in phrase markers as deltas filled by dummy elements or **empty categories** (e.g. PRO, trace, or slash). Empty elements may also be referred to as **null** (e.g. 'null subject'). See also **dummy; PRO; prop; slash; trace; zero.**

empty morph A formal feature in a word which cannot be allocated to any morpheme, as in one possible analysis of the /r/ of *children.* See also **morpheme.**

empty word A word which has no lexical meaning, and whose function is solely to express grammatical relationships (e.g. *the, to, of*); also called a **grammatical word, form word, function word,** or **functor;** contrasts with a **full word, lexical word, content word,** or **contentive,** which has a statable lexical meaning (e.g. *table, go*).

***-en* form** An abstract label for the past participle form of

the English verb (e.g. *I have taken, it has jumped*). See also **participle.**

endearment, terms of Forms of address used between people who mutually perceive their relationship as intimate, e.g. *dear, honey*. An assymetrical use of these forms can also be found, such as in service encounters, signaling condescension and other attitudes between server and customer. See also **address, form of.**

endocentric construction A string of syntactically related words where one word, the head, is distributionally equivalent to the group as a whole (e.g. *apples* in the phrase *juicy red apples*); contrasts with **exocentric construction,** where there is no identifiable head (e.g. *John slept*). See also **head 1.**

endophora The relationships of cohesion that help to define the structure of a text, classified into **anaphoric** and **cataphoric** types. See **anaphora.** This contrasts with **exophoric** relationships, where the interpretation requires reference to the extralinguistic situation. See also **cohesion.**

entailment A relationship between a pair of sentences such that the truth of the second sentence necessarily follows from the truth of the first (e.g. *I have eaten a potato* and *I have eaten some food*). See also **presupposition.**

environment 1 The particular or general sociolinguistic situation within which a person uses language; often called the speaker's **linguistic environment.** 2 The parts of an utterance or text near or adjacent to a unit which is the focus of attention; usually classified into different levels ('phonetic environment', 'grammatical environment', etc). See also **context; distribution.**

epenthesis A type of phonological intrusion, in which an extra sound is inserted in a word; often subclassified into prothesis and anaptyxis. See also **anaptyxis; intrusion; prothesis.**

epistemic modality A type of modality dealing with the logical structure of statements which assert or imply that propositions are known or believed; for example, the use of *must* in *The dinner must be ready* to mean 'It is surely the case that the dinner is ready.' This contrasts with alethic and deontic modality. See also **alethic modality; deontic modality; evidential.**

equative 1 A type of sentence where an **equative** or **equational verb** places two noun phrases into a relationship of identity, e.g. *Michael is the winner*. See also **copula.** 2 See **degree.**

EQUI An obligatory rule in early transformational grammar (in full, **Equi-NP Deletion**) which deletes a noun phrase from a complement clause when it is identical in meaning with another noun phrase in the main clause (e.g. *Mary wants to read the book,* where the underlying subject of *read* is *Mary*). See also **transformation.**

equipollent See **opposition.**

equivalence A relationship of equality of power among grammars. Those grammars which generate the same set of sentences are said to demonstrate **weak equivalence;** grammars which not only generate the same set of sentences but also assign the same structural descriptions to each are said to demonstrate **strong equivalence;** grammars which generate different sentences or structural descriptions are said to be **non-equivalent.** See also **adequacy; capacity; generative grammar.**

ergative Characteristic of a construction or language where there is a formal parallel between the object of a transitive verb and the subject of an intransitive one; contrasts with **accusative 2.** The subject of the transitive verb is referred to as **ergative,** whereas the subject of the intransitive verb, along with the object of the transitive verb, is referred to as **absolutive.** In some approaches, e.g. in Relational Grammar, ergative verbs are also known as unaccusative verbs. Languages that use a combination of ergative and accusative patterns are called **split ergative** languages. See also **Relational Grammar; unaccusative.**

error analysis In language teaching and learning, a technique for identifying, classifying, and systematically interpreting the unacceptable forms produced by someone learning a foreign language. See also **interference.**

esophageal, oesophageal Characteristic of sounds or voice initiated at or below the esophagus (typically, as heard in the speech of some patients following laryngectomy). See also **cavity; voice quality 2.**

essive Characteristic of an inflectional category which expresses a state of being. See also **inflection 1.**

EST The abbreviation for **Extended Standard Theory.**

état de langue ('state of a language') A term used by Ferdinand de Saussure for a language seen as if at a particular point in time, regardless of its antecedents or subsequent history, and thus the primary focus of synchronic study. See also **diachronic linguistics.**

ethnographic semantics See **ethnosemantics.**

ethnography of speaking An approach within **linguistic anthropology** which views speech as a social institution, to be investigated using ethnographic techniques, especially by participant observation of naturally occurring discourse in its cultural context; also called **ethnography of communication.** The emphasis is on language as used by a particular group, institution, community, or society, rather than on the abstract linguistic system, as the main factor in the construction of the social order. See also **anthropological linguistics; ethnolinguistics; speech event.**

ethnolinguistics The study of language in reference to its cultural context; often used as a cover term for such areas as anthropological linguistics, ethnography of speaking, and ethnosemantics. See also **anthropological linguistics; ethnography of speaking; ethnosemantics.**

ethnopoetics The study of the way verbal art is learned, practised, represented and interpreted. Close attention is

paid to linguistic detail and verbal form, and to ways of reflecting on the page the characteristics of an oral original.

ethnoscience The study of the semantic classifications of natural phenomena inherent in cultural systems; includes such areas as ethnobotany and ethnozoology.

ethnosemantics The study of the referential meanings of linguistic expressions, and the analysis of the rules of those meanings in particular cultures. The approach, introduced in the late 1960s by anthropologists working within **ethnoscience,** also aims to formulate the universal cognitive principles which govern particular ethnosemantic phenomena. **Historical ethnosemantics** is the study of the development of the vocabulary reconstructed in a proto-language, related to the cultural and historical contexts in which the words came to be used in individual languages. See also **ethnolinguistics; semantics.**

etic See **emic/etic.**

etymology The study of the origins and history of the form and meaning of words. The linguistic form from which a later form derives is called its **etymon.** A **folk etymology** arises when a word is assumed to come from a particular etymon, because of some association of form or meaning, whereas in fact the word has a different derivation (e.g. *sparrow-grass* for *asparagus*).

eurhythmy In Metrical Phonology, a principle that indicates which metrical **grids** are possible and preferable, in particular ensuring that strings result in a preferred grid configuration, or periodicity. See also **Metrical Phonology; periodicity.**

evaluation In the study of narrative, an element which indicates the point of a story, or how it is to be understood. There are two dimensions of evaluation. The **reportability** of events refers to their ordinariness or extraordinariness—the extent to which they are unexpected, and thus worthy of being narrated. Reference to **social norms** includes moral comments about the way the world is or ought to be, the nature of proper behavior, and the kind of people that the speaker and addressees are. See also **narrative.**

evaluation procedure In theoretical linguistics, a technique that provides criteria for choosing between alternative analyses of a set of data. See also **decision procedure.**

eventive Characteristic of the role of a sentence element, other than the verb, which expresses an action; for example, an eventive subject is used in *The invasion occurred in 1939.*

evidential 1 A type of sentence that expresses a speaker's strength of commitment to a proposition in terms of the available evidence, rather than in terms of possibility or necessity. See also **epistemic modality.** 2 A grammatical category expressing the authority on which a statement is made. Distinctions of **evidentiality** may include eyewitness testimony, hearsay, and supposition.

exclamation In traditional grammar, an emotional utterance which lacks the grammatical structure of a full sentence and is marked by strong intonation (e.g. *Gosh!*); usually contrasted with statements, questions, and commands. In some modern grammars of English, **exclamatory sentences** have a more restricted sense, referring to constructions which begin with *how* or *what* without a following subject-verb inversion (e.g. *What a lovely day it is!*). See also **sentence; statement.**

exclusive See **inclusive.**

exclusive *or* See **disjunction.**

existential Characteristic of a sentence which expresses the notion that something exists, in English beginning with the unstressed word *There* and followed by a form of the verb *be* (e.g. *There are two bottles in the fridge*).

exocentric construction See **endocentric construction.**

exophora See **endophora.**

experiencer In Case Grammar, the case characteristic of an entity or person affected by (or 'experiencing') the action or state expressed by the verb (e.g. *the cat* in *The cat heard the mouse*). See also **Case Grammar.**

explanatory adequacy See **adequacy.**

expletive See **dummy.**

exponence The relationship of correspondence between linguistic units at a higher level of analysis and those at a lower level; for example, words are said to have phonological units as their exponents. In a more restricted sense, the term is used for the physical expression of an abstract unit; for example, a morph is said to be an exponent of a morpheme. See also **level 1; realization; representation.**

expressive 1 Characteristic of the emotional content of an expression, along with any identity it may have in terms of the personality or individual creativity of the user. See also **affect.** 2 In **Speech Act Theory,** a type of utterance where the speaker expresses his or her feelings (e.g. *I sympathize*). See also **speech act.**

Extended Standard Theory (EST) The model of generative grammar which developed in the early 1970s out of Noam Chomsky's *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* (1965); the latter was known as the Standard Theory. The 'extension' was primarily in relation to semantic rules, some of which were allowed to operate with surface structure as input. See also **generative grammar; Standard Theory; surface structure.**

extensive Characteristic of a construction where there is no close semantic relationship (such as attribution or identity) between the elements (e.g. the verb + object construction); contrasts with an **intensive** construction. **Extensive verbs** are typically transitive (e.g. *Mary saw the cat*), and contrast with **intensive verbs** (typically forms of *be*), also called **linking verbs.**

external adequacy See **adequacy.**

external validation A procedure for determining the validity of phonological descriptions that goes beyond the usual

evidence internal to a grammar, for example by using naturalistic observations of spontaneous speech (e.g. slips of the tongue) or experimental tasks (e.g. judgments of similarity).

externalized language See **E-language.**

extrametricality A principle in Metrical Phonology which allows certain elements in a string not to count when metrical structure is assigned—that is, they are ignored by the rules of stress assignment. Suggested examples include word-final consonants in English. See also **Metrical Phonology.**

extraposition The process or result of moving ('extraposing') an element from its basic position to a location at or near the end of a sentence (e.g. *It annoyed me that the book was torn* instead of *That the book was torn annoyed me*). The *it* in such sentences is known as **extrapositive** *it*. See also **fronting 2.**

extrapositive *it* See **anticipatory *it*.**

extrasyllabicity In Autosegmental Phonology, a characteristic of word-final segments which cannot be syllabified according to the principles that hold word-internally; this is **licensed extrasyllabicity.** Also applied to consonants which fail to become syllabified during the syllabification procedure, remaining unattached to a syllable until later in a derivation; this is **contingent extrasyllabicity.** See also Autosegmental Phonology; syllable.

extrinsic ordering In Generative Grammar, a constraint imposed on the sequence of application of rules, whereby the sequence is motivated solely by a consideration of the facts of a language. See **rule.** This contrasts with an **intrinsic ordering,** where the formal or logical properties of a system of rules dictate the sequence in which the rules apply. See also **generative grammar; ordering.**

face A factor influencing the success of a language interchange: **positive face** is the desire that one's ideas, achievements, goals, etc should be desirable to others; **negative face** is one's desire not to be imposed on by others. See also **Cooperative Principle; Interactional Sociolinguistics.**

factitive 1 Characteristic of a construction or form (typically a verb) denoting an action in which a cause produces a result, e.g. *make, kill.* See also **causative.** 2 In early Case Grammar, the case characteristic of the entity resulting from the verb's action, or understood as part of the verb's meaning. See also **Case Grammar; result.**

factive A construction consisting of a verb, called a **factive verb,** plus a complement clause, where the speaker presupposes the truth of the proposition expressed in that clause (e.g. *I realize that John is outside*). Non-factive constructions do not commit the speaker in this way (e.g. *I think that John is outside*). See also **contrafactive.**

falling 1 Descriptive of a pitch movement from relatively high to relatively low, encountered in the study of tone languages and of intonation; contrasts with **rising** and level tones. 2 See **monophthong.**

family of languages A set of languages deriving from a common ancestor, or 'parent'. A diagrammatic representation of these languages is a **family tree.** See also **genetic classification.**

fatherese See **motherese.**

feature A typical or noticeable property of spoken or written language, especially one which conveys a contrast of meaning or which is required for the definition of a linguistic unit. In phonological theory, certain **distinctive features** are established as the minimal units of phonology. See **distinctiveness.** In generative grammar, the term 'feature' refers primarily to the grammatical properties required for the classification of words (e.g. [animate]); these are typically analyzed in binary terms ([+animate] and [−animate]), though non-binary features are also recognized. See **binary feature.** In phrase-structure grammar—notably, in Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar—a grammatical category may be defined in terms of a **feature specification,** i.e. an ordered pair containing a feature (e.g. case) and a **feature value** (e.g. accusative), to which rules have access. Conditions on combinations of feature specifications are constrained by **feature co-occurrence restrictions.** See also **contrast; Foot-Feature Principle; Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; generative grammar; Head-Feature Convention; Phonological Feature Theory.**

feedback 1 The process whereby the sender of a message obtains a reaction from the receiver which enables a check to be made on the efficiency of the communication. **Complete feedback** has been proposed as a defining property of language, whereby speakers are able to monitor their own performance both by observing themselves and by observing the reactions of others. 2 Speakers' awareness of their own production of sound; this may be auditory (via the ear), kinesthetic (via the internal sensation of articulation), or vibratory (via bone conduction). **Delayed auditory feedback (DAF)** takes place when a delay is artificially introduced into the process of speech transmission between mouth and ear.

feeding Characteristic of a phonological relationship between rules, where the application of rule A creates a structural representation to which rule B is applicable; opposed to **bleeding.** A is a **feeding rule** in relation to B, and the linear order of these rules is a **feeding order.**

felicity conditions In **Speech Act Theory,** the criteria which must be satisfied if a speech act is to achieve its purpose; for example, 'preparatory conditions' relate to whether the person performing a speech act has the authority to do so. An utterance which does not satisfy these conditions is said to be **infelicitous.** See also **bleeding; speech act.**

field of discourse In **Systemic Linguistics,** a classification of **registers** in terms of subject matter (e.g. religion, chemistry). See also **manner of discourse; mode of discourse; register 2.**

field theory The view that the vocabulary of a language is a system of interrelated lexical networks, and not an inventory of independent items; also called **semantic** (or **lexical**) **field theory.**

field work The elicitation and analysis of linguistic data in cooperation with native speakers, typically in their own cultural setting; an activity characteristic of anthropological linguistics. See also **anthropological linguistics.**

filler In some models of linguistic analysis, notably Tagmemics, a form which can be used at a given place, or **slot,** in a structure. Approaches using these notions are sometimes called **slot-and-filler** models. See also **Tagmemics.**

filter In Government and Binding Theory, a type of condition which applies to the output of a given set of rules, and which blocks the generation of ungrammatical sentences. Filters are also sometimes called **output constraints** or **surface structure constraints.** See also **constraint; Government and Binding Theory; output.**

finite Characteristic of a verb or construction that can occur on its own in an independent clause, permitting formal contrasts of tense and mood; contrasts with a **non-finite** verb or construction, which occurs on its own only in a dependent clause, and which lacks tense and mood contrasts; examples are infinitives and participles. See also **infinitive; participle.**

finite automata See **automata.**

finite state grammar In theoretical linguistics, a simple kind of generative grammar, which generates sentences by working through them from left to right: an initial element is selected, and thereafter the possibilities of occurrence of all other elements are determined by the nature of the elements preceding them. See also **automata; Chomsky hierarchy; generative grammar.**

fixed expression See **set expression.**

flap A type of consonant in which an articulator (usually the tongue tip) strikes another a glancing blow with a very short contact duration, such as the medial consonant of American English *ladder;* also called a **tap.**

flat **1** In grammatical theory, descriptive of sentences lacking the NP + VP configuration. See also **configurational language.** **2** In phonological feature theory, descriptive of sounds involving a relatively narrow mouth opening with accompanying velarization, and a weakening of the high-frequency components of the sound spectrum; contrasts with **plain.** Lip-rounded sounds are [+flat]. See also **plain.**

focal area See **areal linguistics.**

focus The center of communicative interest in a sentence, as opposed to the information which the speaker can presuppose. See also **given; presupposition.**

folk etymology See **etymology.**

foot **1** Traditionally, a unit of rhythm in an isochronous language, described as a sequence of stressed and unstressed syllables. See **isochrony; syllable.** In Metrical Phonology, a foot is an underlying unit of metrical structure, also called a **stress-foot,** organized into constituents that make up phonological words. Feet are classified as **left-headed** (the leftmost rhyme is stressed) or **right-headed** (the rightmost rhyme is stressed). Feet no longer than two syllables in length are **bounded feet;** a foot containing only one syllable is a **degenerate foot.** See also **Metrical Phonology; stress; superfoot.** **2** In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, a set of features which contrast with head features in terms of their distribution in phrases. See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; head.**

Foot-Feature Principle In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, a principle that deals with the copying of category-valued features between **mother** and **daughter** categories; for example, it is responsible for unbounded dependencies in questions and relative clauses. See also **foot 2; Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; node; unbounded dependency.**

foregrounding Relative prominence in discourse, often involving deviation from a linguistic norm (as in the case of metrical rhythm). For example, in narrative discourse, events belonging to the story line are foregrounded; supporting or clarifying events are **backgrounded.** See also **discourse; narrative.**

foreigner talk A variety of speech used by native speakers when speaking to presumed foreigners. It adapts to the speech of the outsider in various ways, such as by being slower, more simplified, and more formal.

form **1** The abstract structural character of language, as defined in phonological/graphological, grammatical, and lexical terms; the term contrasts with **meaning** or **function,** on the one hand, and with physical phonic/graphic **substance,** on the other. More specifically, it refers to the set of linguistic units established at the various levels of analysis (**linguistic forms**), or to particular instances or variant realizations of these units (e.g. the 'forms' of a verb). A set of forms displaying similar or identical grammatical features is a **form class.** See also **function 1; meaning; substance.** **2** The critical characteristics of a linguistic theory, especially as stated in terms of logic or mathematics. **Formal semantics** is the analysis of sentences using a logical system, such as propositional calculus. See also **formalism.**

formal grammar See **formalism; grammar 1.**

formalism An artificial language devised in order to characterize precisely other artificial or natural languages. In theoretical linguistics, formalisms are primarily used in a descriptive way, to help define the grammatical properties of particular natural languages. A grammar formalism may be **procedural,** providing an algorithm for generating all the strings of a language, or **declarative,** providing a direct description of the language elements. A procedural description can be **synthetic,** with the algorithm specifying how the strings of the language can be constructed, or **analytic,**

specifying how the strings can be recognized. See also **form 2; formalization; generative grammar; Natural Language Processing; string.**

formalist Descriptive of an approach to stylistic analysis which looks at texts as formal objects of study, comprising an internal structure which can be objectively and formally identified. The approach has been particularly associated with structural linguistics, especially as practiced in Eastern Europe. See also **form 1; structural; stylistics.**

formality A dimension of social behavior, ranging from the most strictly regulated to the least; associated in language with such concepts as diglossia and register. See also **diglossia; register.**

formalization A characteristic of formulations in linguistics, whereby rules, statements, and other features are capable of being specified in a precise and rigorous way, especially in logical or mathematical terms. A formalized account, in this sense, is opposed to an 'informal' one. See also **formalism; generative grammar.**

formal semantics See **form 2; semantics.**

formal universal See **universal.**

formant A concentration of acoustic energy, used in acoustic phonetics as part of the classification of vowels, vowel-like sounds, and the transitional features between vowels and adjacent sounds. See also **acoustic phonetics; transition 2; vowel.**

formative A formally identifiable, irreducible grammatical element that enters into the construction of larger linguistic units; used especially in generative grammar for the terminal elements in a surface structure representation of a sentence. See also **generative grammar; morpheme.**

form class See **word class.**

formula A fixed form of words serving a conventional purpose; examples include greetings (*Pleased to meet you*), formal declarations (*Not guilty*), and letter-openings (*Dear Sir*). Language which is characterized by such units is called **formulaic language.** A contrast is sometimes drawn with **free discourse,** where there is a relatively wide choice over what to say and how to say it. 'Formula' also refers, more loosely, to any lexicalized word sequence (e.g. *tell the truth*) or set expression (e.g. *spick and span*). See also **set expression.**

formulator The component of a computational natural-language generator which prepares the grammatical and phonetic shape of individual sentences, using input provided by the conceptualizer. It consists of a **grammatical encoder,** which exercises global control in the construction of sentences, and a **phonological encoder,** which plans phonetic (including prosodic) patterns. See also **computational linguistics; conceptualizer; Natural Language Processing.**

form word See **empty word.**

fortis Characteristic of sounds made with a relatively strong degree of muscular effort and breath force, compared with other, **lenis** sounds. Typically, voiceless sounds are fortis; voiced sounds are lenis. See also **fortition; tension.**

fortition In phonology and phonetics, a strengthening of the overall force of a sound (e.g. a fricative becoming a stop), a process which may occur historically or synchronically; contrasts with **lenition,** which is a weakening in overall force (e.g. voiceless sounds becoming voiced). See also **fortis.**

fossilization In second language learning, the cessation of learning despite repeated practice and continued exposure to the second language. See also **interference.**

fossilized Descriptive of a construction which is no longer productive in a language, but is still in use (e.g. *So be it*). See also **productivity.**

fourth person See **obviative.**

frame The structural environment within which a class of items can be used; for example, *I — glad* provides a frame for a particular class of verbs; also called a **syntactic frame** or a **substitution frame.** In generative grammar, **subcategorization frames** specify the range of sister-constituents that a lexical item takes. In Case Grammar, a **case frame** is the array of cases which specifies the structural context for verbs. Abbreviated statements or **frame features** indicate the set of case frames into which verbs may be inserted. In semantic theory, frames are structures that encode knowledge about stereotyped kinds of objects or situations, with particular provision for the roles played by their parts or participants. See also **case; script 2; word class.**

framing In Interactional Sociolinguistics, a process of contextualization which imposes a particular interpretation on an utterance. For example, an utterance may mean the opposite of what it says if used within a frame of teasing. See also **context 2; Interactional Sociolinguistics.**

free **1** In Government and Binding Theory, descriptive of constituents which are not bound; i.e., they are not formally related through coindexing to a c-commanding argument. See also **Binding Theory; coindexing; command.** **2** See **morpheme.**

free discourse See **formula.**

free variation In phonology, the substitutability of one sound for another in a given phonetic environment, with no consequent change in the word's meaning. The term is sometimes applied analogously in grammar and semantics. See also **allo-.**

frequentative Characteristic of a linguistic form (such as a verb, adverb, or affix) which expresses repeated action. See also **aspect.**

fricative Characteristic of a type of consonant which involves sufficient constriction to produce turbulent air flow, e.g. [f], [s], or [z]; also sometimes called **spirant.** See also **groove; manner of articulation.**

friction The auditory effect of air passing a constriction made in the vocal tract. Friction is part of the phonetic

definition of consonants, the phonetic definition of vowels requiring that they be **frictionless.** See also **frictionless continuant.**

frictionless continuant A sound functioning as a consonant but lacking the closure or friction that identifies most consonantal articulations, e.g. nasals and laterals; also called approximant. See also **approximant; friction.**

front Descriptive of a sound articulated in the anterior part of the mouth or by the blade of the tongue; commonly used with reference to vowel classification, where **front vowels** (e.g. [i], [e]) are those produced with the body or highest point of the tongue as far forward as possible; contrasted with **back vowels** (e.g. [u], [o]), where the highest point of the tongue is as far to the rear as possible. See also **anterior; back; fronting 1.**

fronting 1 The articulation of a sound further forward in the mouth than is expected, according to some norm; for example, the child pronunciation of *car* as /ta:/. See also **front.** 2 In transformational grammar, the transposition of a constituent from the middle or end of a string to initial position; for example, the rule of **WH-fronting** places a WH-phrase at the beginning of a sentence. See also **extraposition; left dislocation; WH-form.**

frozen expression See **set expression.**

FSP The abbreviation for **Functional Sentence Perspective.**

f-structure See **c-structure.**

full word See **empty word.**

function 1 The relationship between a linguistic form and other parts of the sentence (or larger unit) in which it is used; for example, a noun phrase is said to function as subject, object, etc., these roles being defined distributionally as **syntactic functions.** More specifically, the term is used of elements which are contrastive within a system, as when phonology is defined as **functional phonetics.** The use made of a linguistic contrast in a system is its **functional load** or **functional yield.** Approaches which treat the analysis of function as central are the province of **functional** or **functionalist linguistics.** See also **form 1; Functional Grammar; Functional Sentence Perspective; Lexical-Functional Grammar; Relational Grammar.** 2 The relationship between a linguistic form and the social or interpersonal setting in which it is used, as when one refers to the various functions of language (to communicate ideas, express attitudes, etc.). Different kinds of utterance (e.g. question or command) may also be described functionally. In the study of narrative, the term is used in the analysis of plots for a type of action performed by one or more types of character, such as 'Villain harms member of family'. See also **communicative competence; narrative; sociolinguistics; speech act.**

functional See **contrast.**

Functional Grammar An approach to linguistic description devised in the 1970s as an alternative to the abstract formalized view of language presented by transformational grammar. Based on a pragmatic view of language as social interaction, it focuses on the rules governing the linguistic expressions that are used as instruments of this activity. See also **function 1; LIPOC; pragmatics 1.**

functional load See **function 1.**

functional phonetics See **function 1; phonology.**

Functional Sentence Perspective A linguistic theory, associated with the modern exponents of the Prague School, which analyzes utterances in terms of the information they contain, the role of each utterance part being evaluated for its semantic contribution to the whole. See also **communicative dynamism; information flow; rheme.**

functional shift See **conversion.**

functional yield See **function 1.**

function word See **empty word.**

functor See **empty word.**

fusion See **assimilation.**

fusional language A type of language in which words typically contain more than one morpheme, but there is no one-to-one correspondence between these morphemes and the linear sequence of morphs that a word contains; also called an **inflecting language,** and usually contrasted with **isolating** and **agglutinative** languages. See also **typology.**

fuzziness Indeterminacy in the analysis of a linguistic unit or pattern; for example, a semantic category might have an invariant core and a variable ('fuzzy') boundary. A **fuzzy grammar** is one capable of generating sentences with specific degrees of assigned grammaticality. See also **non-discrete grammar; squish.**

gap The absence of a linguistic unit at a place in a pattern of relationships where one might have been expected; for example, a **lexical gap** occurs in the lack of a male/female contrast for *cousin* in English. In Generative Grammar, gaps are often assumed to contain phonologically empty categories. A **parasitic gap** occurs when the presence of a syntactic gap depends on the prior existence of another gap in the structure of the sentence. See also **empty element; gapping.**

gapping In generative grammar, the absence of a repeated verb in clauses which have been conjoined (e.g. *Mary went to London and John to Paris*). See also **conjoin; gap; generative grammar.**

GB The abbreviation for **Government and Binding Theory.**

geminate Characteristic of a sequence of identical adjacent sound segments, especially in a single morpheme (e.g. Italian *notte* 'night').

gender A grammatical category displaying such contrasts as masculine/feminine/neuter or animate/inanimate. A distinction is drawn between **natural gender,** which involves reference to the sex of real-world entities, and **grammatical gender,** which is associated with arbitrary word classes, and signals grammatical relationships between words in a sentence.

genderlect A use of language directly associated with the sex of the speaker or addressee; usually discussed with reference to women's language. See also **lect.**

general Descriptive of linguistics when the emphasis is on the universal applicability of theory and method in the study of languages; often contrasted with descriptive and applied conceptions. **General grammar** is found in some early linguistic studies in the sense of 'universal grammar'. See also **universal.**

generalization 1 A property of linguistic analyses that are applicable to a relatively wide range of data in a language, and are expressed in relatively abstract terms. 2 In psycholinguistics, the process whereby children extend their initial use of a linguistic feature to a class of items, such as the gradual use of *-ing* for all verbs. **Overgeneralization** takes place when the feature is extended beyond its limits in the adult grammar (e.g. the extension of plural *-s* to *mouses*). Overgeneralization is also found in second language acquisition, when the rules of the second language are applied too generously. See also **acquisition.**

Generalized Binding Theory See **Binding Theory.**

Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar (GPSG) A framework for writing fully-explicit formal grammars for natural languages, developed in the 1980s as an alternative to transformational accounts of language; mathematically, originally formulated as a notationally elaborated variant of context-free phrase-structure grammar. See also **Head-Driven Phrase-Structure Grammar; phrase-structure grammar.**

generalized transformation See **double-base transformation.**

General Semantics A philosophical movement developed in the 1930s by Alfred Korzybski which aimed to make people aware of the conventional relationships between words and things, as a means of improving systems of communication and clear thinking. See also **semantics.**

general stylistics See **stylistics.**

generative grammar A grammar that defines the set of grammatical sentences in a language: formal rules project a finite set of sentences upon the potentially infinite set that constitutes the language as a whole. The term also refers to the theoretical approach which envisions such a grammar (and is then often capitalized). The two main branches of generative linguistics are **generative phonology** and **generative syntax.** The term **generative semantics** refers to a school of thought propounded in the early 1970s that viewed the semantic component of a grammar as the generative base from which syntactic structures can be derived. See also **interpretive; transformation.**

generative phonology See **generative grammar.**

genetic classification The classification of languages according to a hypothesis of common origin, typically producing a **family tree** for a group of languages which displays their relative chronology. See also **diachronic linguistics; phylum; proto- 1.**

genitive An inflectional category of case often assumed by a noun phrase (typically a single noun or pronoun) to express a possessive relationship (e.g. *the cat's paw*) or some other close semantic connection (e.g. *a winter's evening*). The term may also be used for constructions formally related to the case form, as in the **postmodifying genitive** in English, using *of*. See also **case; group genitive; inflection 1.**

geographical linguistics See **geolinguistics.**

geolinguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the geographical distribution of languages in the world, with reference to their political, economic, and cultural status; also called **geographical linguistics.** More narrowly, the term is used for an approach which combines the insights of dialect geography, urban dialectology, and human geography in a sociolinguistically informed dialectology. See also **dialect; sociolinguistics.**

gerund See **participle.**

gesture In phonology, a matrix of features specifying a particular characteristic of a segment; for example, a laryngeal gesture would specify characteristics of phonation. The term is particularly used in Dependency Phonology, where categorial, articulatory, and initiatory gestures are distinguished, and gestures are further analyzed into **subgestures.** See also **Dependency Phonology.**

given Characterizing one of the two main constituents comprising the information structure of an utterance. Given information is that already supplied by the previous linguistic context; it contrasts with **new** information, which has not been previously supplied. See also **information flow; rheme.**

glide A transitional sound produced as the vocal organs move towards or away from an articulation, called an on-glide or an off-glide, respectively. Also used as a cover term for semivowels and laryngeals, i.e. [−consonantal, −syllabic] segments. See also **consonant; larynx; off-glide; semivowel; syllable.**

gliding vowel See **pure vowel.**

Glossematics An approach to language developed by Louis Hjelmslev in the 1930s, in which language is viewed as one kind of symbolic system whose special features emerge only when compared with other, non-linguistic symbolic systems. Language is presented purely deductively, the invariant units established by the procedure being called **glossemes.** See also **ceneme.**

glossolalia 'Speaking in tongues', as practised by members of various religious groups.

glottal Descriptive of sounds made in the larynx, caused by closure or narrowing of the **glottis,** i.e. the aperture between the vocal folds. The audible release of a complete closure at the glottis is a **glottal stop,** symbolized [ʔ]. **Glottalization** is a general term for any articulation involving a simultaneous glottal constriction. In Phonological Feature Theory, **glottal constriction** constitutes a type of cavity feature, involving the narrowing of the glottis beyond its neutral

position. See also **glottalic airstream; larynx; Phonological Feature Theory; vocal folds.**

glottalic airstream The use of the glottis to initiate an airstream capable of making consonant sounds. Ejective sounds result from an egressive flow of air; implosive sounds result from an ingressive flow. See also **airstream; ejective; glottal; implosive.**

glottalized stop See **ejective.**

glottochronology The quantification, in units of time, of the extent to which languages have diverged from a common source. See also **lexicostatistics.**

goal In grammatical analysis, the entity that is affected by the action of the verb, often equatable with the object, such as *the ball* in *John kicked the ball.* In **localistic** theories, an entity takes a path from a source to a goal. See also **case; localism; object.**

God's truth See **hocus pocus.**

government 1 A type of syntactic linkage whereby one word (or word class) requires a specific morphological form of another word (or class); for example, in Latin a preposition **governs** a noun in a specific case. See also **agreement; case.** 2 Various uses are found in generative grammar. In the **Standard Theory, governed** and **ungoverned** refer to whether or not a rule has lexical exceptions. In later models, where several possible nodes **c-command** a constituent, the **governor** is the lowest of these nodes in the tree, as long as there is no intervening noun phrase or S-bar. **Government theory** is a branch of Government and Binding Theory, its main feature being the **Empty Category Principle,** which restricts the positions from which movement may occur. Also in this theory, a **governing category** is the minimal structure within which the relationships of **binding** obtain. See also **Government and Binding Theory; X-bar Theory.** 3 In Dependency Grammar, the **governor** is the superordinate node in a dependency tree, which controls a set of dependent nodes. See also **Dependency Grammar; node.**

Government and Binding Theory A model of generative grammar, deriving from Extended Standard Theory, which involves three main levels of structure—**D-structure, S-structure,** and **Logical Form**—and a set of interacting subtheories: X-bar, Theta, Case, Binding, Bounding, Control, and Government theories. This is referred to as the principles and parameters approach, for its view that the same principles of syntax are operative in all languages, though they can take a slightly different form in different languages. The approach is also referred to as **modular,** because of the way its explanations may derive from different principles or **modules** of the grammar. See also **Binding Theory; Bounding Theory; case; Control Theory; Extended Standard Theory; generative grammar; government 2; parameter; principles; theta role; X-bar Theory.**

GPSG The abbreviation for **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

gradability Variability in degree, viewed grammatically or semantically. A word is **gradable** if it allows the possibility of comparison or intensification, using such means as a comparative/superlative form (e.g. *quicker, most disturbingly*) and adverbs of degree (e.g. *very large*). If these possibilities are not available, the word is **ungradable** (e.g. **most downstairs*). See also **comparative; degree.**

gradation A grammatical mechanism for expressing gradability. See also **gradability.**

gradience The absence of a clear-cut boundary between analytic categories; for example, among pitch patterns, or between certain kinds of word class or syntactic construction. Gradience between syntactic categories is sometimes referred to as **serial relationship.** See also **blending; indeterminacy.**

gradual See **opposition.**

grammar 1 A systematic analysis of the structure of a language, either a **performance grammar,** as encountered in a corpus of speech or writing, or a **competence grammar,** as predictive of a speaker's knowledge. A grammar of the latter kind is usually conceived as a generative grammar, a device which gives a finite specification of the sentences of a language. In a psycholinguistic context, a performance grammar aims to define the processes underlying the acts of speech production and perception. A contrast is often drawn between a **descriptive grammar,** which provides a precise account of actual usage, and a **prescriptive grammar,** which attempts to establish rules for the correct use of language in society. A comprehensive practical description of the structure of a language is a **reference grammar.** A **theoretical grammar** goes beyond the study of individual languages, using linguistic data as a means of developing insights into the nature of language as such, and into the categories and processes needed for linguistic analysis. A grammar which tries to establish the defining (universal) characteristics of human language is a **universal** grammar. Insofar as grammar concentrates on the study of linguistic forms, it may be referred to as **formal grammar;** this is often contrasted with **notional grammar,** which assumes the existence of extralinguistic categories in order to define grammatical units. 'Formal grammar' also refers to the use of the formalized techniques of logic and mathematics in the analysis of language. **Traditional grammar** refers to the range of attitudes and methods found in the pre-linguistic era of grammatical study. See also **comparative linguistics; competence; form 1; generative grammar; prescriptivism; universal.** 2 A level of structural organization which can be studied independently of phonology and semantics, generally divided into the branches of syntax and morphology; it is the study of the way words, and their component parts, combine to form sentences. See also **grammaticality; morphology; syntax.**

grammar induction See **learnability 2.**

grammatical encoder See **formulator.**

grammatical gender See **gender.**

grammatical inference See **learnability 2.**

grammaticality The conformity of a sentence (or part of a sentence) to the rules defined by a specific grammar of a language; also called **well-formedness.** A preceding asterisk is commonly used to indicate that a sentence is incapable of being accounted for in this way, i.e. it is **ungrammatical** or **ill-formed.** See also **acceptability; grammar 1.**

grammaticalization The attribution of a grammatical character to a formerly autonomous word; also called **grammaticization;** for example, Old English *an* 'one' became grammaticalized as the indefinite article *a(n).*

grammatical word See **empty word.**

graph The smallest discrete segment in a stretch of writing or print; analogous to the notion of phone in phonetics. See also **graphology; phone.**

graphemics The study of the minimal contrastive units, conceived as **graphemes**—on analogy with the phonemes—in the writing system of a language. See also **graphology; phoneme.**

graphetics The study of the graphic substance of written or printed language; coined on analogy with **phonetics.** See also **graph; graphology; phonology.**

graphic substance The written or printed form of language, seen as a set of physically definable marks on a surface. See also **graphology; phonic substance.**

graphology The writing system of a language, or the linguistic study of that system, using analogous techniques to those devised for the study of phonology. See also **graphetics; orthography; script 1.**

grave See **acute.**

grid See **Metrical Phonology.**

Grid-Only Phonology In Metrical Phonology, an approach in which the formalisms of metrical **grids** and metrical **trees** are equivalent, and only the grids need be represented; contrasts with **Tree-Only Phonology,** where it is argued that only the trees need be represented. These positions differ from the view that both formalisms are required because they have different functions. See also **Metrical Phonology.**

groove A slight hollowing along the central line of the tongue, used in producing the type of fricative called a sibilant, in which the passage of air creates a sound with a higher frequency than other fricatives (e.g. [s]); contrasts with **slit** fricatives (e.g. [f]), where there is no such groove. See also **fricative; sibilant.**

group In Systemic Grammar, a unit on the rank scale intermediate between clause and word; for example, *the man* is a **nominal group,** *was running* is a **verbal group.** See also **rank; Systemic Grammar.**

group genitive A syntactic construction in English where the **genitive** ending is added to the last element in a noun phrase containing postmodification or coordination (e.g. *the University of Reading's buildings*). See also **genitive.**

haplology The omission of some of the sounds occurring in a sequence of similar articulations (e.g. *library* as /laibri/). See also **elision.**

harmony A type of phonological assimilation whereby sounds of a particular class (consonants or vowels) come to share certain features with other, typically non-adjacent sounds of that class, usually within a single word. See also **assimilation.**

head **1** In **endocentric** phrases, the element which is distributionally equivalent to the phrase as a whole, and which determines syntactic relations with the rest of the phrase or sentence. See **endocentric construction.** Such constructions are sometimes called **headed,** as opposed to **exocentric** constructions, which are **non-headed.** In generative syntax, the **Head Parameter** is a principle concerning the position of heads within phrases: it asserts that a language has the heads on the same side in all phrases, and distinguishes **head-first languages** (where heads appear on the left) from **head-last languages** (where they appear on the right). In Metrical Phonology, **left-headed feet** are those where the leftmost rhyme of the foot is stressed; **right-headed feet** are those where the rightmost rhyme is stressed. See also **Metrical Phonology.** **2** In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, an element enabling one to identify a cluster of related feature specifications (e.g. N, V, AUX). See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; Head-Feature Convention.**

Head-Driven Phrase-Structure Grammar (HPSG) A syntactic theory which builds on the insights of Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar and Categorial Grammar, as well as certain other approaches; a central feature is that categories incorporate information about the categories with which they combine. See also **categorial grammar; Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

Head-Feature Convention In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, a principle responsible for equating one class of feature specifications as they appear on the **mother** category and its head **daughters;** for example, a verb phrase inherits the tense of its verb. See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; head 2; node.**

heightened subglottal pressure In Phonological Feature Theory, a source feature that accounts for variations in subglottal pressure, as in the aspirated stops of various languages. See also **glottal; source feature.**

hermeneutics In sociolinguistics, the task of interpreting specific instances of discourse. See also **discourse.**

heterography See **homography 1.**

heteronyms Words that display partial homonymy, differing in meaning but identical in form in one medium only (i.e. speech or writing); for example, *threw* and *through.* See also **homonyms.**

heterorganic See **homorganic.**

hierarchy A classification of linguistic units that recognizes a series of successively subordinate levels; for example, the analysis of a sentence into constituents, or the relationship between different linguistic levels (sentence, clause, phrase, word, morpheme). See also **Accessibility Hierarchy; level 3.**

high 1 In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a type of tongue-body feature, in which the tongue is raised above the level it holds in neutral position, as in the vowels [i] and [u], and in palatal or velar consonants; [+high] vowels contrast with [−high], as in the vowel [a] and in front consonants. See also **high vowel; tongue-body feature.** 2 See **diglossia.**

high vowel A vowel produced in the upper region of the mouth, with the tongue close to the palate or velum. It is contrasted with a **low vowel,** which is produced with the body of the tongue relatively low in the mouth, and sometimes with a **mid** or **medial** vowel, between these two extremes. This dimension of vowel classification is strongly related to the close/open position of the lower jaw. See also **high 1.**

historical dialect See **dialect.**

historical ethnosemantics See **ethnosemantics.**

historical linguistics See **diachronic linguistics.**

hocus pocus Characteristic of an approach to linguistic data where the analyst expects to impose an organization in order to show structural patterns; contrasts with a **God's truth** approach, where it is assumed that an underlying structure is really present in the data, waiting to be uncovered by the analyst.

hold To maintain the vocal organs in a single position for a definable period, as in the closure stage of plosive production. See also **articulation; plosive.**

holophrase A grammatically unstructured utterance characteristic of the earliest stage of language learning in children, e.g. *dada, allgone.* See also **acquisition.**

homographs Words that have the same spelling but different meanings, as in *wind* ('blowing' vs. 'clock'); a type of homonymy. See also **homonyms.**

homography 1 An orthographic system where there is a one-to-one correspondence between symbols and sounds; contrasts with a **heterographic** system, which lacks this correspondence. See also **orthography.** 2 See **homographs.**

homonyms Words which have the same form but different meanings, as in *ear* (of body, of corn). **Heteronymy** or partial homonymy occurs when the identity is within a single medium, as in **homophony** and **homography.** See **heteronyms; homographs; homophones.** When there is ambiguity between homonyms, a **homonymic clash** is said to have occurred. See also **polysemy.**

homophones Words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings, as in *rode/rowed;* a type of **homonymy.** See also **homonyms.**

homorganic Descriptive of sounds that are produced at the same place of **articulation,** such as [p] and [m]; contrasts with **heterorganic,** where the sounds have different places of articulation. See also **articulation.**

honorific A grammatical form used to express a level of politeness or respect, especially in relation to the compared social status of the participants. See also **interactional sociolinguistics; politeness phenomena.**

hortative A grammatical category of mood, expressing an exhortation. See also **mood.**

HPSG The abbreviation for **Head-Driven Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

hypercorrection The use of a linguistic form beyond the point set by the variety of the language that a speaker has as a target; for example, a non-standard speaker may adopt a standard form but use it inappropriately. See also **standard.**

hypernasal See **nasalization.**

hypernym See **hyponymy.**

hypersememic stratum A level in Stratificational Grammar that deals with the conceptual or referential properties of language. See also **Stratificational Grammar.**

hyponasal See **nasalization.**

hyponymy A semantic relationship between specific and general lexical items, such that the former is included in the latter; for example, *cat* is a **hyponym** of *animal,* and *animal* is a **hypernym** of *cat.* The lexical items included within the same superordinate term are **co-hyponyms** (*dog, cat, elephant,* etc). See also **incompatibility.**

hypophonemic stratum A level in Stratificational Grammar that deals with the phonetic properties of utterances. See also **Stratificational Grammar.**

hypotactic Descriptive of a dependent grammatical relationship, especially one where the constituents are linked by subordinating conjunctions. See **subordination.** This contrasts with **paratactic** constructions, where the linkage, between constituents of equal status, is conveyed solely by juxtaposition and punctuation/intonation. See also **coordination.**

I In recent generative linguistics, the abbreviation for **internalized** in the phrase **internalized language;** also the abbreviation for **inflection** in recent Government and Binding Theory. See INFL.

IA The abbreviation for an **Item-and-Arrangement** model of description in morphology.

iambic reversal See **reversal.**

IC The abbreviation for **immediate constituent:** see **constituent.**

iconic relationship A relationship of a sign vehicle or **representamen** to its object, as proposed by C. S. Peirce, where the vehicle is connected to the object by virtue of

physical similarity, as with a map or onomatopoeia. Signs that show this close connection of **iconicity** are called **icons.** See also **indexical relationship; semiotics; sign 1; symbolic relationship.**

ID The abbreviation for **immediate dominance** in Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.

idealization The ignoring of certain aspects of variability in linguistic data, in order to arrive at an analysis that is as generally applicable as possible. See also **competence.**

ideational meaning A type of meaning relating to one's cognitive awareness of the external world (in a mentalistic approach), or to the objectively verifiable states of affairs in the external world (in a behavioral approach), as reflected in language; often contrasts with **interpersonal, expressive,** or **textual** meaning. See also **meaning.**

idiolect The linguistic system of an individual—a personal dialect; also, more narrowly, the speech habits of a person as displayed in a particular variety at a given time. See also **dialect; lect.**

idiom A sequence of words that is semantically and often syntactically restricted, so that it functions as a single unit; the meanings of the individual words cannot be summed to produce the meaning of the idiomatic expression as a whole. See also **collocation.**

I-language See **E-language.**

illative An inflectional category of case that expresses the meaning of 'motion into' a place. See also **case; inflection 1.**

ill-formedness See **grammaticality.**

illiteracy See **literacy.**

illocutionary act A speech act that is performed by a speaker by virtue of the utterance having been made; for example, promising, commanding, baptizing, or arresting. The **illocutionary force** of such acts contrasts with the function of **locutionary acts,** where the acts simply produce meaningful utterances, and perlocutionary acts, where the acts are defined with reference to the effects they have on the hearer. See also **perlocutionary act; speech act.**

immediate constituent See **constituent.**

immediate dominance In generative linguistics, a type of relationship between nodes in a phrase-marker: node A immediately **dominates** node B if and only if there is no node C that also dominates B and is dominated by A. See **domination; node; phrase-marker.** In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, an **Immediate Dominance** (ID) Rule specifies that X can dominate Y and Z, but does not specify the relative order of Y and Z. See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; linear precedence rule.**

imperative An inflectional category of **mood,** relevant to verb forms or to sentence/clause types, typically used in the expression of commands; contrasts with indicative and interrogative. See also **indicative; interrogative.**

imperfective See **perfect.**

implicature A conventional suggestion that can be deduced from the form of an utterance, on the basis of certain cooperative principles that govern the efficiency and normal acceptability of conversations. **Conversational** or **non-conventional** implicatures are classified as **generalized** (not requiring a specific context) vs. **particularized** (requiring a specific context), and are calculated on the basis of the Maxims of Conversation. These are contrasted with **conventional** implicatures, which are simply attached by convention to particular expressions. See also **Cooperative Principle; felicity conditions; Maxims of Conversation.**

implosive Characteristic of a type of consonant produced with the glottalic airstream mechanism. An occlusion is made in the vocal tract while the vocal folds are brought together. The glottis is then lowered, reducing air pressure in the tract. When the occlusion is released, an ingressive airstream results, producing a range of typically voiced sounds. See also **glottalic airstream.**

inactive See **active 2.**

inalienable See **alienability.**

inanimate noun See **animate noun.**

inceptive An inflectional category of aspect, referring to a verb in which the beginning of an action is specified ('be on the point of'); also called **inchoative,** and sometimes contrasted with **telic.** See also **aspect.**

inchoative See **inceptive.**

inclusive Descriptive of a first person dual or plural pronoun where the addressee, as well as the speaker, is included (e.g. *we* = 'I and you'); it contrasts with **exclusive,** where reference excludes the addressee.

inclusive *or* See **disjunction 1.**

incompatibility A sense relation between a set of lexical items, where the choice of one item excludes the use of all other items from that set; for example, *This musical instrument is an oboe* excludes *clarinet, trumpet,* and other items. See also **hyponymy.**

incorporating language A type of language characterized by long, morphologically complex word forms, typically involving noun incorporation. See also **noun incorporation; typology.**

incorporation See **noun incorporation.**

incremental production A method of computational natural-language generation which allows the grammatical encoding of a sentence to commence before the whole of a preverbal message has been received from the conceptualizer, and to be gradually built up as more information is received. See also **conceptualizer; language generation; Natural Language Processing.**

indefinite See **definiteness.**

indefinite article See **article.**

indeterminacy Uncertainty or disagreement among native speakers as to what is grammatical or acceptable; also, uncertainty or disagreement among linguists as to how and

where a boundary line between different types of structure might best be drawn. See also **acceptability; fuzziness; grammaticality; non-discrete grammar.**

indexical feature A feature of speech or writing that reveals the personal characteristics of a language user, e.g. voice quality or handwriting; more generally, a membership-identifying characteristic of a social group. See also **voice quality 1.**

indexicality See **deixis.**

indexical relationship A relationship of a sign vehicle or **representamen** to its object, proposed by C. S. Peirce, where the connection is based on spatio-temporal or physical contiguity, as with smoke signaling fire, or linguistic deixis. See also **deixis; iconic relationship; semiotics; sign 1; symbolic relationship.**

indexing The attachment of numbers or letters as markers to a set of items in a sentence, to show referential identity or difference; also called **referential indices.** These are assigned in some approaches by **indexing rules.** See also **Binding Theory; coindexing; referent 2.**

indicative An inflectional category of mood, whereby a verb form or clause/sentence type is used in the expression of statements and questions; contrasts with imperative and subjunctive. See also **declarative; imperative; mood; subjunctive.**

indirect object See **object.**

indirect question See **direct speech.**

indirect speech See **direct speech.**

indirect speech act An utterance whose linguistic form does not directly reflect its communicative purpose; for example, *There's some chalk on the floor* may function as a request to pick the chalk up. See also **speech act.**

inessive An inflectional category of case that expresses the meaning of location or position within a place. See also **case; inflection 1.**

infelicitous utterance See **felicity conditions.**

infinitive The non-finite form of the verb, in English usually cited as its base form (e.g. *go, walk*). The English form may be used alone—the **bare** or **zero infinitive**—or with the particle *to,* as the ***to*-infinitive.** In Government and Binding Theory, constructions with the *to*-infinitive are called **infinitive clauses.** See also **finite.**

infix See **affixation.**

INFL The abbreviation in early Government and Binding Theory for **inflection.** See also **I.**

inflecting language See **fusional language.**

inflection 1 A morphological process, typically expressed by an affix which does not change the word class of the stem to which it is attached, and whose function is to signal grammatical relationships; the subject matter of **inflectional morphology.** See also **case; derivation 1; morphology; word.** 2 In **Government and Binding Theory,** an abstract constituent that subsumes various grammatical properties, notably tense, person, and number; at first symbolized as INFL, later as **I.** In X-bar Theory, I is a zero-level category with two phrasal projections; the maximal projection of I is the **inflection phrase (IP).** See also **AGR; projection; X-bar Theory.**

inflectional morphology See **morphology.**

informant Someone, usually a native speaker of a language, who acts as a source of data for linguistic analysis. Since the early 1980s, such people have often been referred to as **consultants,** acknowledging the collaborative nature of fieldwork. See also **field work; native speaker.**

information flow Change in the cognitive status of knowledge as language is produced and comprehended through time, such as variations in the newness or givenness of information throughout a discourse. Information flow has important effects on such linguistic features as intonation, word order, and pronominalization. See also **active 2; communicative dynamism; given; information structure; rheme.**

information structure A proposed analysis of sentences into information units, in speech usually distinguished by intonational criteria, with the **information focus** conveyed by the nuclear tone. See also **focus; Functional Sentence Perspective; given; information flow; theme.**

***-ing* form** In English grammar, the form of the verb ending in *-ing* (e.g. *running*). See also **participle.**

ingressive See **egressive; implosive; velaric airstream.**

inherent case See **case.**

inherent feature In the **Standard Theory** of generative grammar, a type of feature (contained in a lexical entry) which provides information about the essential characteristics of an item likely to affect its syntactic functioning, e.g. [$\neg$ abstract]; contrasts with contextual feature and rule feature. See also **contextual feature; lexicon; rule feature.**

inheritance The preservation of argument structure under morphological operations; for example, verb-derived nouns in *-ing* allow inheritance of all the input verb's arguments (e.g. *the putting of labels on boxes*). See also **argument.**

Innateness Hypothesis The view that the child is born with a biological predisposition to learn language, and a knowledge of at least some of the universal structural principles that characterize language. See also **acquisition.**

insertion A basic syntactic operation in **transformational grammar** that introduces a new structural element into a string (e.g. negative-insertion, lexical insertion).

instantaneous release See **abrupt release.**

institutional linguistics A developing branch of linguistics that studies the use of language in professional contexts such as law, medicine, education, or business.

instrumental An inflectional category of case, whereby a noun phrase (often a single noun or pronoun) expresses the notion 'by means of'. In Case Grammar, this is the semantic

case of the inanimate entity causally involved in a verb's action, e.g. *the key* in *The key opened the door*. See also **case; Case Grammar; inflection 1.**

instrumental phonetics See **phonetics.**

integrated properties In speech perception, generalized acoustic patterns of frequency, amplitude, and time which correspond to phonetic features. These patterns include the relative distribution of formant frequency peaks, the relations among peak amplitudes, and the relative changes in amplitude distribution. See also **acoustic phonetics; formant; speech perception.**

intensifier One of a class of adverbs which have a heightening or lowering effect on the meaning of another element in a sentence, e.g. *very, hardly.*

intensity See **loudness.**

intensive See **extensive.**

Interactional Sociolinguistics The study of the role of language in mediating face-to-face interaction, especially the way social factors influence how people speak to each other in particular communicative events, motivating and constraining their choice of available linguistic options. Particular attention is paid to the detailed transcription of recorded interactions. See also **address, forms of; Conversation Analysis; discourse; politeness phenomena; sociolinguistics; T/V forms.**

interchangeability A suggested defining property of human language that refers to the system's ability to be mutually transmitted and received by members of the same species.

interdental See **dental.**

interference The process whereby a speaker introduces errors into one language as a result of contact with another language, typically while learning a foreign language or while living within a multilingual situation; also called **negative transfer.** See also **contrastive analysis; error analysis.**

interfix See **affixation.**

interjection In traditional classifications of parts of speech, a word whose function is purely emotive, and which does not enter into syntactic relationships with other classes, e.g. *Gosh!, Tut tut!.* See also **word class.**

interlanguage A language system created by someone learning a second language, which contains properties of both the first and the second language according to the learner's own evolving system of rules. See also **acquisition.**

interlingua A language-independent representation, established in order to mediate between different languages in the course of **machine translation.** See also **Natural Language Processing; representation.**

intermediate projection In X-bar Theory, a phrase larger than the zero-level projection and smaller than the maximal projection. See also **projection; X-bar Theory.**

intermediate vowel A vowel that falls between two adjacent cardinal vowels, or in the center of the cardinal vowel area. See also **cardinal vowel.**

internal adequacy See **adequacy.**

internalization In generative linguistics, the acquiring of knowledge about the structure of a language, primarily in the context of child language acquisition. See also **acquisition; E-language.**

internalized language See **E-language.**

internal reconstruction See **reconstruction 1.**

International Phonetic Association An organization founded in 1886 by a group of European phoneticians to promote the study of phonetics. It devised the International Phonetic Alphabet, first published in 1889, which has become the most widely used system for transcribing the sounds of a language. See also **transcription.**

interpersonal meaning A type of meaning that relates to the establishing and maintaining of social relations, such as social roles, stylistic level, or the expression of personality. See also **meaning.**

interpretive In generative grammar, characteristic of a mode of relationship between levels of representation, primarily seen in the status of semantic and phonological rules in the Standard Theory, which interpret the output of syntactic structures by assigning them a semantic and phonetic representation. The label **interpretive semantics** is used for the view that the level of syntax contains the generative power of the grammar; this contrasts with the view of **generative semantics,** where the syntax is seen as interpretive. See also **generative grammar.**

interrogative Characteristic of a grammatical category found in verb forms or sentence/clause types used in the expression of questions; contrasts with declarative. Words which mark interrogative constructions are **interrogative words,** often subclassified as interrogative adjectives (e.g. *which*), adverbs (e.g. *why*), and pronouns (e.g. *who*). See also **declarative; question.**

interrupted See **continuant.**

intervocalic Characteristic of a consonant used between two vowels.

intonation The linguistic functioning of pitch at sentence level, generally analyzed in terms of intonation contours or **tone units;** contrasts with tone as the use of pitch in words or syllables. Also, more broadly, 'intonation' refers to the use of pitch along with rhythm. The study of intonation is sometimes called **intonology.** See also **contour; downdrift; paratone; pitch; tone.**

intransitivity See **transitivity.**

intrinsic ordering See **extrinsic ordering.**

intrusion The addition of sounds in connected speech that have no basis in the pronunciation of the syllables or words when heard in isolation, such as the use of intrusive /r/ as a linking sound between vowels when there is no *r* in the spelling (as in *Asia-r and Africa*). The term contrasts with elision, and is often subclassified into several types, depending on where in the word the intrusion occurs. See also **anaptyxis; elision; epenthesis; prothesis.**

intuition The judgment, often covert, of speakers about their language, especially in deciding whether a sentence is acceptable or not, and how sentences are interrelated; also called **tacit knowledge** or **Sprachgefühl.** See also **acceptability; competence; grammaticality.**

invariable word A type of word that never undergoes morphological processes (e.g. *but, under*); also called an **invariant word;** contrasts with **variable words** (e.g. *house, walk*), which can be inflected. See also **inflection 1.**

invariance A phonological principle whereby a phoneme is seen as having a set of defining phonetic features, such that whenever a phoneme occurs the corresponding features will also occur. See also **Biuniqueness Condition; linearity.**

invariant word See **invariable word.**

inversion The process or result of a syntactic change in which a specific sequence of constituents is seen as the reverse of another; for example, subject-auxiliary inversion in the formation of questions in English (*Is he there?*).

inverted pseudo-cleft sentence See **pseudo-cleft sentence.**

IO An abbreviation for **indirect object.**

IP The abbreviation for **1** an **Item-and-Process** model of description in morphology, and **2 inflection phrase** in X-bar Theory.

IPA The abbreviation for the **International Phonetic Association** and the **International Phonetic Alphabet.**

irregular Descriptive of a linguistic form that is an exception to the pattern stated by a rule; for example, *took* is an irregular verb in English because it fails to conform to the rule that forms past tense by adding *-ed.*

island In transformational grammar, a structure out of which constituents cannot be moved by any movement rule; more generally, a constituent across whose boundary certain types of relation between elements cannot be held. In **X-bar Syntax,** the **Island Condition** asserts that constituents can be extracted out of complement phrases, but not out of subject/adjunct phrases. See also **movement.**

iso- A prefix used in dialect study as part of the labeling of the types of linguistic information that can be displayed on maps; for example, **isogloss,** marking the boundary of an area in which a particular linguistic feature is used. Other boundary terms include **isophone** (for phonological features), **isomorph** (for morphological features), **isolex** (for lexical features), **isoseme** (for semantic features), and **isopleth** (for an association of a linguistic and sociocultural feature). In sociolinguistics, an **isolect** is a linguistic variety or lect that differs minimally from another variety. See also **dialect; lect.**

isochrony A type of linguistic rhythm where the stressed syllables fall at roughly regular intervals throughout an utterance, as in a **stress-timed** language. Such languages contrast with **syllable-timed** languages, where the syllables occur at regular intervals of time; this is called **isosyllabism.** See also **rhythm; stress.**

isolated See **opposition.**

isolating language A type of language in which the words are uninflected, and syntactic relationships are primarily shown by word order; also called an **analytic language,** and contrasted with **agglutinative** and **fusional** languages. See also **invariable word; typology.**

isomorphism A property of two or more structures whose constituent parts are in a one-to-one correspondence with each other, at a given level of abstraction; for example, a syntactic and semantic analysis would be isomorphic if, for each syntactic unit, there were a corresponding semantic one.

isosyllabism See **isochrony.**

item An individual linguistic form, seen as occurring in an inventory and not in a classification; for example, the vocabulary of a language, as listed in a dictionary, is a series of lexical items.

Item-and-Arrangement Descriptive of a model of morphological description in which words are seen as linear sequences ('arrangements') of morphs ('items'); contrasts with an **Item-and-Process (IP)** model, where the relationships between words are seen as processes of derivation, and a **Word and Paradigm (WP)** model, where the word is seen as the basic unit of analysis, operating within a set of variables that constitute a paradigm. See also **derivation 2; morphology; paradigm.**

Item-and-Process See **Item-and-Arrangement; process.**

iteration See **recursive.**

iterative **1** An inflectional category of aspect, descriptive of an event that takes place repeatedly; contrasts with **semelfactive,** where the event takes place once only. See also **aspect.** **2** In phonology, characteristic of a rule that applies more than once in a word or phrase (such as vowel harmony or stress assignment). See also **cycle; recursive.**

juncture A phonological boundary feature that demarcates grammatical units, signaled by silence, pitch, stress, length, or a variety of phonetic features. Various types of juncture have been recognized, including **open** or **plus juncture** (the features used at a word boundary, before silence) and **close juncture** (the transitions between sounds within a word). In some intonation analyses, a **single-bar** or **sustained juncture** is recognized when the pitch pattern stays level within an utterance; a **double-bar** or **rising juncture** is recognized when the pitch pattern rises before silence; and a **terminal, double-cross, falling** or **fading juncture** is recognized when the pitch pattern falls before silence. See also **intonation; word.**

Katz-Postal hypothesis A hypothesis proposed by Jerrold Katz and Paul Postal in the 1960s which proposed that transformations should be meaning-preserving. See **meaning-changing/preserving; transformation.**

kernel In early generative grammar, a type of structure produced by the phrase-structure rules of a grammar; also called a **kernel string.** A **kernel sentence** or **kernel clause**

is one that is simple, active, affirmative, and declarative in character. See also **generative grammar; phrase-structure grammar.**

kernel clause A clause which can form a sentence on its own; it is declarative, positive, unmarked with respect to all the thematic systems of the clause, and not elliptical. See also **clause.**

key **1** The tone, manner, or spirit in which a speech act is carried out (e.g. mock vs. serious); also, a level of formality found in speech (e.g. intimate, casual). **2** A contrastive pitch range in the study of intonation in discourse. See also **discourse; intonation.**

key lowering See **downdrift.**

kineme A term devised by La Mont West for a minimally contrastive unit of handshape, location, or movement within Plains Indian Sign Language. The term was later used for other visual contrasts in the field of kinesics. See also **chereme; kinesics; sign language.**

kinesics The systematic use of facial expression and body gesture to communicate meaning, especially as this relates to the use of language; often analyzed in emic terminology, such as **kineme** and **kinemorph.** See also **emic/etic.**

kinetic tone See **dynamic tone.**

kinship terms The system of lexical items used in a language to express personal relationships within the family, in both narrow and extended senses. See also **componential analysis.**

labeled bracketing See **bracketing.**

labial Characteristic of a speech sound made with the active use of one lip, as in labio-dental sounds, or of both lips, as in bilabial consonants and rounded vowels. **Labialization** is a **secondary articulation** involving noticeable lip-rounding. See also **bilabial; labio-dental; labio-velar; secondary articulation.**

labialization See **labial; secondary articulation.**

labio-dental Characteristic of a sound in which one lip is actively in contact with the teeth—generally, the lower lip with the upper teeth, as in [f] or [v]—or approaches close to the teeth, as in some vowel articulations. See also **labial.**

labio-velar Descriptive of a sound made at the **velum** with the simultaneous accompaniment of lip-rounding, e.g. [w]. See also **labial; velar.**

LAD The abbreviation for **Language Acquisition Device.**

lag A delay in the occurrence of voicing after the release of a plosive; contrasts with voicing **lead,** where the voicing occurs before the release. See also **voice-onset time.**

laminal Descriptive of a consonant sound made by the **blade** of the tongue articulating with the upper incisor teeth. See also **apical; tongue.**

landing site In transformational grammar, a target position to which a moved element can travel. See also **adjunction; movement.**

language **1** The act of speaking, writing, or signing, in a given situation. See also **parole.** **2** The linguistic system underlying an individual's use of speech, writing, or sign. See also **competence; idiolect.** **3** A particular variety or level of speech, writing, or sign (e.g. 'scientific language', 'bad language'). See also **variety.** **4** The abstract system underlying the speech/writing/sign behavior of a community, or the knowledge of this system by an individual (e.g. 'the English language'). See also **competence; langue.** **5** An artificially constructed system used to expound a conceptual area (e.g. 'computer language') or to facilitate communication (e.g. 'artificial language'); usually contrasted with a **natural language (NL),** especially in computational contexts. See also **Natural Language Processing.** **6** The biological faculty enabling individuals to learn and use speech, writing, or sign; a defining feature of human behavior. See also **Language Acquisition Device.**

Language Acquisition Device (LAD) A model of language learning, encountered especially in generative linguistics, in which the infant is credited with an innate predisposition to acquire linguistic structure. See also **acquisition; generative grammar; Innateness Hypothesis.**

language contact A situation of geographical continuity or close social proximity between languages or dialects, so that a degree of bilingualism comes to exist within a community, and the languages thus begin to influence each other (e.g. through loan words or pronunciation changes). See also **bilingualism; language diffusion; multilingualism.**

language death The situation which arises when a language ceases to be used by a community; also called **language loss** or **obsolescence,** especially with reference to the loss of language ability by an individual.

language diffusion The increased use of a language in a given area over a period of time; also called **language spread.**

language engineering See **language planning.**

Language for Specific Purposes (LSP) An area of inquiry and practice in the development of language programs for people who need a language (or a variety) to meet a predictable range of communicative needs.

language game See **play language.**

language generation The production of spoken, written, or signed messages by people or computers. The term is primarily used for the computational composition of printed text. See also **computational linguistics; Natural Language Processing.**

language loss See **language death.**

language loyalty A concern to preserve the use of a language or the traditional form of a language, when that language is perceived to be under threat; also called **language maintenance.** See also **language death; language shift.**

language maintenance See **language loyalty.**

language planning A deliberate, systematic, and theory-based attempt to solve the communication problems of a

community by studying the various languages or dialects it uses, and developing a policy concerning their selection and use; also sometimes called **language engineering** or **language treatment. Corpus planning** deals with norm selection and codification, as in the writing of grammars and the standardization of spelling; **status planning** deals with the initial choice of language, including attitudes toward alternative languages and the political implications of various choices. See also **sociolinguistics; standard.**

language query processor A component of a natural language interface designed to provide access to computer databases, with the aim of enabling successful dialog to take place between people and computers. See also **natural language interface.**

language shift The gradual or sudden move from the use of one language to another, either by an individual or by a group. See also **language loyalty.**

language socialization The gradual development in children of patterns of language use which reproduce the adult system of social order. See also **acquisition.**

language treatment See **language planning.**

langue The language system shared by a community of speakers; contrasts with **parole,** the act of speaking in actual situations by an individual. See also **competence; performance.**

laryngeal activity In Phonological Feature Theory, a major class of features which includes [±constricted glottis] and [±stiff vocal folds]. See also **glottal; Phonological Feature Theory; vocal folds.**

laryngealization See **creaky voice.**

larynx The interconnecting cartilages in the throat which enclose the vocal folds; also known as the 'voice box'. Sounds made in the larynx are sometimes called **laryngeals,** especially in philological contexts. **Laryngealization** refers to variations in the mode of vibration of the vocal folds, such as creaky voice. The **laryngograph** is a device for recording vocal-fold vibrations visually, using electrodes placed against the appropriate part of the neck. See also **creaky voice; vocal folds.**

lateral Characteristic of a type of consonant involving an obstruction to the airstream in the medial region of the vocal tract, with air passing through an incomplete closure at one or both sides; the most common example is [l]. This also refers to a stricture type within Phonological Feature Theory, where [±lateral] release is recognized. See also **clear L; stricture type.**

lax See **tension.**

lead See **lag.**

learnability **1** A suggested defining property of human language, referring to the way any language can in principle be acquired by any normal child given the opportunity to do so. See **acquisition.** **2** A mathematical theory, called **Learnability Theory,** dealing with idealized learning procedures for acquiring grammars on the basis of exposure to evidence about languages; also called **grammar induction, grammatical inference,** and **learning theory.** See also **acquisition.**

learning theory See **learnability 2.**

lect A linguistic variety that has a functional identity within a speech community, but without specification of the basis on which the collection was made (whether regional, social, etc). Grammars which take **lectal** variation into account are said to be **polylectal** or **panlectal.** See also **acrolect; basilect; genderlect; idiolect; mesolect; variety.**

left branching In Generative Grammar, descriptive of a construction whose derivation involves a series of structural operations that would be represented as increasing complexity of the left-hand side of a tree diagram, e.g. *the boy's pet's food.* Contrasts with **right branching,** where the right-hand side of the tree diagram would be affected, e.g. *the food of the pet of the boy.* See also **tree.**

left dislocation A type of sentence in which one of the constituents is displaced to initial position, its canonical position being filled by a pronoun or a lexical noun phrase with the same reference (e.g. *Fred, I saw him*); contrasts with **right dislocation,** where the movement is to the end of the sentence (e.g. *I saw him, John*). See also **fronting 2; topic.**

left-linear grammar See **linear grammar.**

lemma An abstract representation of a lexical item, equivalent to the headword of a dictionary entry. See also **lexicon.**

length In phonetics, the physical duration of a sound or utterance; in phonology, the relative duration of sounds and syllables when these are linguistically contrastive (e.g. 'long' vs. 'short' vowels); also called **quantity;** contrasts with **quality.** See also **mora; quality 1.**

lenis See **fortis.**

lenition See **fortition.**

level **1** A major dimension of structural organization held to be susceptible of independent study, such as phonology, grammar, and semantics. **2** In generative linguistics, a type of representation encountered within the derivation of a sentence, such as the levels of **deep** and **surface** structure. See also **representation.** **3** A structural layer within a hierarchy, such as clause, phrase, or word. See **hierarchy.** **4** A degree of pitch height or loudness; also, a pitch height which does not vary, as in a **level tone,** or a stress pattern where the constituents are equal, as in **level stress.** See also **stress; tone.** **6** A model of expression felt to be appropriate to a type of social situation, i.e. a **stylistic level.** See also **stylistics.**

level tone See **dynamic tone.**

leveling In the study of phonological change, the neutralization of phonological oppositions that are not shared by two dialects in contact. See also **dialect; language contact; neutralization.**

lexeme The minimal distinctive unit in the lexicon of a language, introduced to avoid the ambiguity in the term 'word' when discussing vocabulary; also called a **lexical item.** In language change, **lexicalization** takes place when phrases coalesce into compound words, and derived words into simple words. See also **lexicon.**

lexical See **lexicon.**

lexical field See **field theory.**

Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG) A grammatical theory in which the role of the lexicon is seen as central, and grammatical functions are seen as syntactic primitives. A **c[onstituent]-structure** encodes linear order, phrasal hierarchy, and syntactic category in a tree; a **f[unctional]-structure** encodes information about grammatical functions in hierarchical attribute-value matrices. See also **c-structure; function 1.**

lexical morphology See **morphology.**

Lexical Phonology A theory about the organization of grammar in which all morphological rules, and many phonological ones, are carried out in the lexicon. The phonological rules are divided into **lexical rules,** which may interact with morphological rules, and **postlexical rules,** which may not. The cycle is seen to be the organizing principle for the application of lexical phonological rules. See also **cycle; morphology; phonology.**

lexical word See **empty word.**

lexicography See **lexicon.**

lexicology See **lexicon.**

lexicon The vocabulary of a language, i.e. the set of **lexical items** or **lexemes,** especially when listed in a dictionary as a set of **lexical entries;** also called **lexis.** Lexical items are organized as a **lexical structure** or **lexical system.** Specific groups of items, sharing certain formal or semantic properties, are **lexical sets.** A network of semantically related lexical items is a **lexical** or **semantic field.** In generative grammar, the lexicon is the component containing all the information about the structural properties of the lexical items in a language. The insertion of particular lexical items at particular places in grammatical structure is carried out using **lexical insertion rules.** The specification of lexical entries is simplified through the use of **lexical redundancy rules.** In the **Lexicalist Hypothesis,** a class of rules governing word formation is distinguished from the set of syntactic transformations. **Lexical Syntax** is an approach that incorporates syntactic rules within the lexicon; **Lexical Phonology** is an approach where some of the phonological rules are transferred to the lexicon, within the morphological component. In psycholinguistics, the stored mental representation of what people know about their language is called the **mental lexicon,** and the study of the psychology of word meanings is sometimes referred to as **psycholexicology.** The study of a language's lexicon is **lexicology,** distinguished from **lexicography,** the art and science of dictionary-making. See also **field theory; generative grammar; lexeme; semantics.**

lexicostatistics A technique used to make quantitative comparisons between the rates of change within sets of lexical items in putatively related languages. See also **glottochronology.**

LF The abbreviation for **Logical Form** in Government and Binding Theory.

LFG The abbreviation for **Lexical-Functional Grammar.**

liaison The introduction of a sound at the end of a word in certain phonological contexts; for example, a final consonant may be introduced before a following vowel. See also **linking.**

linear grammar In computational linguistics, a type of grammar that describes only linear or non-hierarchical aspects of strings; also called **regular grammar.** If the non-terminal symbol is the leftmost symbol on the right-hand side of a rule, the grammar is a **left-linear grammar;** if it is the rightmost, it is a **right-linear grammar.** See also **computational linguistics; hierarchy; string.**

linearity The representation of language as a unidimensional sequence of elements or rules. In phonology, this is an organizational principle, whereby each occurrence of a phoneme is associated with a specific phone (or sequence of phones) realizing that phoneme. See also **Biuniqueness Condition; realization; string.**

linear precedence rule A type of rule in **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar,** of the form $X < Y$, specifying that X must precede Y. See also **immediate dominance.**

Linear Prediction Coefficient (LPC) synthesis A system of speech synthesis based on the representation of the speech signal in terms of a set of coefficients which attempt to predict the signal with minimum error from its past values in the time domain. These coefficients determine the spectral representation of the signal. See also **speech synthesis.**

linear processing An approach to language processing in which the different components apply in a sequence, the output of one component providing the input to the next; for example, a morphological analyzer might provide the input to a syntactic analyzer which would in turn provide the input to a semantic analyzer. Non-linear approaches include the parallel or alternating use of components, while processing particular constituents. See also **Natural Language Processing; system architecture.**

lingua franca An auxiliary language used to permit routine communication between groups of people who speak different native languages. See also **auxiliary language.**

lingual Characteristic of a sound made with the tongue; for example, a **lingual trill** is the trilled [r] made with the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge. See also **tongue.**

linguist **1** A student or practitioner of linguistics; sometimes

also called a **linguistician.** See also **linguistics.** 2 A person proficient in more than one language.

linguistic 1 Characteristic of language, as in such phrases as 'linguistic minority'. 2 Characteristic of linguistics, describing an approach deriving from that field, as in 'linguistic analysis'.

linguistic anthropology See **anthropological linguistics.**

linguistic characterology See **communicative dynamism.**

linguistic determinism See **linguistic relativity.**

linguistic ideology See **metapragmatics.**

linguistic minority A social subgroup (e.g. a conquered indigenous people, an immigrant group) the identity of which is defined in terms of language. See also **language loyalty.**

linguistic relativity A view of the relationship between language and culture, or between language and thought, which asserts—in its strongest form, **linguistic determinism**—that language determines the way people perceive and organize their worlds; also called the **Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis** (after Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf). Speakers of different languages, it is claimed, necessarily adopt different concepts of reality. See also **anthropological linguistics.**

linguistics The scientific study of language; also called **linguistic science**—or, when phonetics is seen as a distinct area of study, **linguistic sciences. Synchronic** or **descriptive linguistics** is the study of the state of a language at any given point in time; **diachronic** or **historical linguistics** is the study of language change. **Comparative linguistics** studies language history by juxtaposing presumably related languages. **General** or **theoretical linguistics** aims to establish universal principles for the study of languages, and to determine the characteristics of human language as a phenomenon. **Contrastive linguistics** focuses on the differences between languages, especially in the context of language teaching. **Typological linguistics** aims to identify the common characteristics of different languages or language families. **Structural linguistics** refers to any approach which focuses on the patterned characteristics of language, but is especially used for the approaches to syntax and phonology current in the 1940s and 1950s, with their emphasis on providing discovery procedures for the analysis of surface structure. **Taxonomic linguistics** emphasizes the hierarchical classification of structures and units in language, often without reference to such notions as deep structure. Linguistics is sometimes contrasted with **philology,** a more specifically historical field. See also **anthropological linguistics; applied linguistics; biolinguistics; clinical linguistics; comparative linguistics; computational linguistics; critical linguistics; educational linguistics; ethnolinguistics; mathematical linguistics; neurolinguistics; philology; philosophical linguistics; psycholinguistics; sociolinguistics; statistical linguistics.**

linking Descriptive of a sound that is introduced between linguistic units, usually for ease of pronunciation, such as English **linking** /r/ between vowels, e.g. *law(r) and order.* See also **liaison.**

linking verb See **copula; extensive.**

LIPOC The abbreviation for **language-independent preferred order of constituents**—a linguistic tendency, recognized in Functional Grammar, that orders constituents in terms of their categorial complexity. See also **function 1.**

liquid Characteristic of sonorant consonants other than nasals and approximants; typically apico-alveolar sounds such as [l] and [r].

literacy The ability to read and write; contrasts with **illiteracy,** the two poles now being viewed as demarcating a continuum of ability. **Biliteracy** is the ability to read and write in more than one language.

literal paraphasia See **phonological paraphasia.**

literary competence See **competence.**

literary pragmatics The study of the relationship of the production and reception of literary texts to their use of linguistic forms. The area of research involves an interaction between linguistics, literary theory (primarily, narrative theory), and the philosophy of language. See also **narrative; pragmatics 1.**

literary stylistics See **stylistics.**

little *pro* See ***pro.***

l-marking In Government and Binding Theory, descriptive of a category that is the complement of a V, N, A, or P, as opposed to one that is the complement of C or I. The symbol 'l' derives from 'lexical category'. See also **Government and Binding Theory.**

loan A linguistic unit—usually a lexical item, or **loan word**—that has come to be used in a language or dialect other than the one where it originated; also called a **borrowing.** In **loan blends,** the meaning is borrowed but only part of the form, e.g. when English *restaurant* retains a French pronunciation of the final syllable. In **loan shifts,** the meaning is borrowed but the form is nativized, e.g. *restaurant* with an English pronunciation of the final syllable. See also **calque.**

loan translation See **calque.**

LOC The abbreviation for **locative.**

localism An approach to linguistic analysis that considers expressions of location (in space and time) to be more basic to a grammatical or semantic analysis than other types of expressions, which are viewed as derived; for example, *the table's legs* or *The table has legs* can be related to *There are legs on the table.*

local transformation A transformation that affects only a sub-string dominated by a single category symbol; for example, the stress-assignment rules of the transformational cycle in phonology. See also **transformation.**

locative (LOC) An inflectional category of **case** taken by a noun phrase (often a single noun or pronoun), typically expressing the idea of the place of a state or action. An abstract interpretation is encountered in the context of semantic roles, as in Case Grammar. Structures that express locational meaning may also be referred to as locative (e.g. *in the garden* would be a **locative phrase**). See also **Case Grammar; inflection 1; localism.**

locus In articulatory phonetics, the apparent point of origin of a formant for a given place of articulation, as displayed on a spectrogram. See also **formant; spectrograph.**

locutionary act See **illocutionary act.**

Logical Form (LF) In Government and Binding Theory, the initial representation of sentence meaning, resulting from the semantic interpretation of case-marked structures. See also **case; Government and Binding Theory; representation; semantics.**

logophoric Descriptive of a pronoun referring to a person whose speech or thought is being represented in the discourse. See also **discourse; pronoun.**

loudness The attribute of auditory sensation in terms of which a sound may be ordered on a scale from low to high volume; corresponds to some degree with the acoustic feature of **intensity,** reflecting the size of the vibrations of the vocal folds. See also **stress.**

low See **diglossia; high; high vowel.**

low vowel See **high vowel.**

LP The abbreviation for **linear precedence,** in Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.

LPC synthesis See **Linear Prediction Coefficient synthesis.**

LSP The abbreviation for **Language for Specific Purposes.**

M An abbreviation sometimes used for **modal verb,** and in Metrical Phonology for **mot.**

macrolinguistics An extremely broad conception of the subject of linguistic enquiry, promoted especially in the 1950s: language is seen in its overall relation to extralinguistic experience and to physical phonetic/graphetic properties. It is divided into **prelinguistics,** whose primary subject matter is phonetics; **microlinguistics,** whose primary subject matter is phonology, morphology, and syntax; and **metalinguistics,** whose subject matter is the relationship between language and all extralinguistic features of communicative behavior. More generally, **microlinguistic** is used for any analysis of linguistic data involving maximum depth of detail.

macroplanner See **conceptualizer.**

main clause See **clause.**

major Characteristic of the most productive sentence patterns in a language, such as subject + predicate; also called **favorite** patterns; these contrast with **minor** patterns, where the sentences have limited productivity, or lack some of the constituents found in the major type (e.g. vocatives, ellipses). See also **productivity; sentence.**

major class feature In Phonological Feature Theory, a principal dimension of classification, referring to the main types of sound produced by the open vs. closed possibilities of vocal tract variation: [± sonorant], [± vocalic], and [± consonantal]. See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

malapropism A coinage that is semantically similar to another word, which has been imperfectly understood; for example, *beneficiary* might become *benefactor.*

manifestation See **realization.**

manner See **Maxims of Conversation.**

manner adverbial A class of adverbial in which items can be used in answer to the question 'How?' (e.g. *slowly, in an angry manner*), and sometimes subsuming certain other types of item (e.g. instrumental adverbs). See also **adverbial.**

manner of articulation The nature of the chief articulatory constriction during the production of a consonant sound, referring especially to the degree of the constriction and the way it is made. There may be a complete articulatory closure (stops); an oral closure, with the soft palate lowered (nasals); a close approximation of the two articulators (fricatives); an open approximation of the two articulators (approximants); a central closure only (laterals); or a vibration (trills, taps, and flaps). In Phonological Feature Theory, the term is a major dimension of classification, subsuming features of continuance, release, supplementary movement, and tenseness. See also **approximant; articulation; consonant; flap; fricative; lateral; nasal; Phonological Feature Theory; stop; trill.**

manner of discourse In **Systemic Linguistics,** a dimension of linguistic variation, referring to the relations among the participants in a language activity, especially the level of formality they adopt; sometimes called **tenor of discourse** or **style of discourse.** See also **field of discourse; mode of discourse; stylistics.**

margins See **syllable.**

markedness An analytic principle whereby pairs of linguistic features, seen as oppositions, are given values of positive or **marked** vs. neutral, negative, or **unmarked.** In its most general sense, this distinction relates to the presence or absence of a particular characteristic; for example, in phonology, **distinctive features** are assigned the markedness values in terms of + and −. Other interpretations of markedness refer to frequency of occurrence (the less frequent item being marked), semantic specification (the more specific item being marked), and syntactic distribution (the less restricted item being marked). In recent generative linguistics, **markedness theory** deals with the tendencies of linguistic properties to be found in all languages: an unmarked property accords with these tendencies; a marked property goes against them. See also **core grammar; feature; opposition; universal.**

mass noun See **countability.**

matched guise technique In sociolinguistics, an investigative technique that uses a speaker who can assume authentic versions of the speech variables under study (e.g. a dialect) while keeping other extraneous variables constant. See also **accommodation.**

Matching Condition A condition required by **Binding Theory:** if two noun phrases are assigned the same indices, their features (of number, gender, etc.) must be compatible.

mathematical linguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the mathematical properties of language, including such areas as the statistical properties of texts, the algebraic study of string sets, the study of the formal properties of grammatical rule systems, and the exploration of parsing algorithms. See also **automata; Binding Theory; computational linguistics; parsing; rule; statistical linguistics.**

matrix sentence A superordinate sentence within which another sentence is embedded; for example, in *The car that was stolen is in the street,* the matrix sentence is *The car is in the street.* See also **embedding.**

Maxims of Conversation General principles thought to underlie the efficient use of language, and which together identify a general Cooperative Principle. Four basic maxims have been recognized: the **maxim of quality** (speakers' contributions should be genuine and not spurious), **quantity** (contributions should give no more and no less information than is required to make the message clear to the addressee), **relevance** (contributions should be relevant to the purpose of the exchange), and **manner** (contributions should be clear and concise, avoiding obscurity and ambiguity). See also **Cooperative Principle; relevance.**

m-command See **command 2.**

MDP The abbreviation for **Minimal Distance Principle.**

mean length of utterance (MLU) A measure introduced into studies of child language acquisition by Roger Brown, which computes the length of a child's utterance in terms of morphemes. See also **acquisition; morpheme.**

meaning A basic construct used in linguistics both as a datum (the signification or interpretation of a message) and as a criterion of analysis (through such notions as contrastivity and distinctiveness). When the emphasis is on the relationship of language to the entities, events, or states of affairs external to the language, then terms such as **referential, descriptive, denotative, extensional, factual,** and **objective meaning** are used. When the emphasis is on the relationship between language and the mental states of speakers, two sets of terms are used: the personal, emotional aspects are referred to by such labels as **attitudinal, affective, connotative, emotive,** or **expressive meaning;** the intellectual, factual aspects involve such terms as **cognitive** and **ideational meaning.** When the emphasis is on the way variations in the extralinguistic situation affect the understanding and interpretation of language, terms such as **contextual, functional, interpersonal, social,** and **situational meaning** are used. **Contextual** and **textual meaning** refer to factors which affect the interpretation of a sentence, and which derive from the rest of the discourse in which the sentence occurs. Within linguistics, the role each linguistic level plays in the total interpretation of a sentence is often referred to as the 'meaning' of that level, notably **lexical meaning** and **grammatical** or **structural** meaning. See also **semantics.**

meaning-changing In early Transformational Grammar, characteristic of transformations that involve a change of sense between input and derived sentences; contrasts with **meaning-preserving,** involving no such change. See also **Katz-Postal Hypothesis; transformation.**

meaning postulate A formula added to a formal semantic system that constrains the interpretation of the non-logical constant symbols. See also **semantics.**

meaning-preserving See **meaning-changing.**

medial **1** Characteristic of sounds occurring in the middle of a word or other grammatical unit; contrasts with **initial** and **final.** See also **position.** **2** Characteristic of sounds occurring in the middle of the vocal tract, neither very far forward nor very far back. See also **back; front.** **3** Characteristic of vowel sounds where the tongue is neither fully high nor fully low. See also **high vowel.**

mellow See **strident.**

merger See **convergence 2.**

mesolect In the study of **creole** language development, a linguistic variety sociolinguistically intermediate between an acrolect and a basilect; sometimes further classified into an **upper** mesolect (closer to the acrolect) and a **lower** mesolect (closer to the basilect). See also **acrolect; basilect; lect.**

metagrammar See **metarule.**

metalanguage **1** A language for describing an object of study—as illustrated by the headwords in the present glossary, which constitute a **linguistic metalanguage.** **2** See **macrolinguistics.**

metaphor A semantic mapping from one conceptual domain to another, often using anomalous or deviant language. A **conventional metaphor** is one that forms a part of our everyday understanding of experience, and is processed without effort, e.g. *to lose the thread of an argument.* A **poetic metaphor** extends or combines everyday metaphors, especially for literary purposes. **Conceptual metaphors** are those functions situated in speakers' minds which implicitly condition their thought processes—for example, 'Argument is war', underlying such expressed metaphors as 'I attacked his views'. See also **stylistics.**

metapragmatics The study of the patterning of goals and purposes in language use, expressed partly in usage and partly in **linguistic ideology,** i.e. beliefs about the nature of language. See also **pragmatics.**

metarule A type of rule that defines some rules in a grammar on the basis of the properties of others already present in

the grammar. This is an important notion in Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, where metarules relate **immediate dominance** rules to one another. A grammar that contains a set of metarules is a **metagrammar.** See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

metathesis An alteration in the normal sequence of elements in a sentence—usually of sounds, but sometimes of syllables, words, or other units (e.g. *aks* for *ask*).

Metrical Phonology A theory of phonology in which phonological strings are represented in a hierarchical manner, using such notions as **segment, syllable, foot,** and **word;** originally introduced as a hierarchical theory of stress, the approach now covers the whole domain of syllable structure and phonological boundaries. The underlying metrical structure of words and phrases is represented in the form of a **metrical tree,** and hierarchic patterns of syllabic prominence may be formally represented through a **metrical grid.** See also **grid-only phonology; hierarchy; syllable.**

metrics Traditionally, the study of versification, interpreted in linguistics as the analysis of metrical structure using the whole range of linguistic techniques, especially those belonging to segmental and suprasegmental phonology. See also **prosody.**

microlinguistic 1 Descriptive of any analysis of linguistic data involving a maximum depth of detail. 2 See **macrolinguistics.**

microplanner See **conceptualizer.**

middle voice See **active 1.**

mid vowel See **high vowel.**

Minimal Distance Principle (MDP) In psycholinguistics, a principle applied to the analysis of **complement** structures of the type *Mary wants Michael to go,* where the subject of the complement clause is assumed to be the nearest noun phrase to the left of the complement verb. Exceptions (e.g. *Mary promised Michael to go*) are predicted to cause difficulty in child language acquisition. See also **acquisition.**

minimal free form The smallest linguistic form that can stand on its own as an utterance. See also **word.**

minimal pair Two words that differ in meaning when only one sound is changed (e.g. *pin* vs. *pit*), enabling linguists to determine which sounds belong to different phonemes. See also **allo-; complementary distribution; phoneme.**

minor See **major.**

minority language See **linguistic minority.**

miscommunication A misunderstanding between participants in an interaction caused by differences in their ways of using language. The problem is particularly marked when communicative exchanges cross cultural boundaries. See also **interactional sociolinguistics.**

mismatch See **overextension.**

MIT The abbreviation for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, associated with the school of linguistic thought launched by Noam Chomsky. See also **generative grammar.**

MLU The abbreviation for **mean length of utterance.**

modality See **mood.**

Model-Theoretic Semantics A version of Truth-Conditional Semantics, in which a model is defined relative to a language, and provides information about the individuals taken to be the domain of discourse, an arbitrary number of world-time pairs, and the reference and extension values at each world-time pair for the lexical items in the language. See also **Possible-Worlds Semantics; Truth-Conditional Semantics.**

mode of discourse In **Systemic Linguistics,** the medium of language activity that determines the role played by language in a situation (primarily the choice between speech and writing, and choice of format of expression). See also **field of discourse; manner of discourse; stylistics.**

modification 1 The structural dependence of one grammatical unit upon another, especially within endocentric constructions; often classified as preceding dependent items (premodification) or following them (postmodification). In traditional grammar, the term is restricted to the relationship between adjective and noun or adverb and verb. In **Systemic Grammar,** it is reserved for premodifying structures only, postmodifying structures being labeled **qualification.** See also **adjective; endocentric construction; syntax.** 2 In phonetics, any factor that influences the airflow in the vocal tract, such as movement of the soft palate or degree of closure of the glottis; also, any factor that alters the typical actions of the vocal organs in producing the phonemes of a language, such as a secondary articulation. See also **secondary articulation.**

modularity See **Government and Binding Theory.**

modulation The suprasegmental alterations introduced into an utterance for a particular attitudinal or social effect, e.g. whispering.

monogenesis The hypothesis that all human languages originate from a single source; contrasts with **polygenesis.** The terms are also used in discussing similarities among pidgins and creoles: monogenetic theories assume the diffusion of a single pidgin to other areas via migration; polygenetic theories assume the development of a pidgin in one community to be independent of the development of a pidgin in another. See also **creole; pidgin.**

monophthong A vowel with a single perceived auditory quality, produced by a movement of the articulators toward a single point in the vocal tract; also called a **pure vowel;** contrasted with **diphthong,** where the auditory impression is of two vowel qualities, and **triphthong,** where three qualities can be perceived. In a **falling** or **descending diphthong,** the first element is more prominent; in a **rising** or **ascending diphthong,** the second element is more prom-

inent. **Diphthongization** takes place when a monophthong becomes a diphthong, as in cases of historical or dialect change. See also **vowel.**

monostratal Characterizing a grammar that contains only a single level of representation; contrasts with a grammar that recognizes more than one level—typically, generative grammars that distinguish deep and surface structures. See also **deep structure; level; surface structure.**

monosystemic phonology See **polysystemicism.**

monotransitive See **ditransitive.**

Montague Grammar A linguistic theory derived from the work of Richard Montague, based on the semantics of formal languages; the grammar contains a syntactic and a semantic component related by a one-to-one correspondence between categories set up at the two levels. See also **compositionality.**

mood A grammatical category, typically of verb inflection, that indicates what the speaker is doing with a proposition in a particular discourse situation. Mood normally identifies the status of the utterance, for example as indicative (the unmarked form), imperative (a command), hortative (an exhortation), or subjunctive (a subordination). Also called **modality** or **mode,** especially in the absence of inflectional forms. **Modal auxiliaries** are verb-like words which typically express speakers' attitudes toward the factual content of an utterance, such as uncertainty, possibility, and necessity. See also **alethic modality; auxiliary verb; deontic modality; desiderative; epistemic modality; imperative; indicative; subjunctive.**

mora In traditional metrics, a minimal unit of metrical time equivalent to a short syllable; now used widely in phonological theory—especially in Metrical Phonology—as a unit of phonological length. See also **length; Metrical Phonology; syllable.**

morph See **morpheme.**

morpheme The minimal distinctive unit of grammar, commonly classified into **free forms** (which can occur as separate words) and **bound forms** (which cannot so occur—mainly affixes); the central concern of morphology or **morphemics.** Morphemes, as abstract units, are realized in speech as discrete items or **morphs;** morphemic variants are **allomorphs.** The arrangement of morphemes in linear sequence is **morphotactics.** In language change, **morphologization** takes place when a phonological variant becomes morphologically conditioned. In Generative Phonology, **morpheme-structure constraints** express restrictions on the phonological shape of linguistic forms as they appear in the lexicon. See also **affixation; morphology; submorpheme; word.**

morphology The branch of grammar that studies the structure of words, generally divided into **inflectional morphology** and **lexical** or **derivational morphology,** the study of word formation. **Morphemics** emphasizes the analysis of words into morphemes, particularly as practiced by American structuralists in the 1940s and 1950s. Morphology contrasts with syntax, the combination of words into sentences. **Natural Morphology** aims to explain universal tendencies in word formation, such as the preference for deriving nouns from verbs rather than the reverse. See also **grammar; inflection 1; morpheme; syntax.**

morphophonemics A branch of linguistics that analyzes and classifies the phonological or grammatical factors that determine the shape of phonemes; also called **morphophonology, morphonology,** or **morphonemics.** The basic unit recognized in such an analysis is the **morphophoneme.** See also **morphology; phonology.**

morphosyntax The study of grammatical categories or properties for whose definition criteria of morphology and syntax both apply, such as number, person, and voice. See also **morphology; syntax.**

mot (French, 'word') In Metrical Phonology, the prosodic level assigned to lexical category words. See also **Metrical Phonology.**

motherese The distinctive way in which mothers talk to their young children; sometimes distinguished from **fatherese,** the analogous speech of fathers. Both notions are often subsumed under the broader concept of **caretaker** or **caregiver speech.** See also **acquisition.**

motor theory A theory of speech perception which claims that the listener has specialized neural mechanisms which convert the acoustic waveform into discrete and invariant articulatory targets, or gestures. Speech is perceived in terms of its production. See also **speech perception.**

move In Conversation Analysis, a structured course of action whose choice entails radically different strategic consequences from alternative actions. See also **Conversation Analysis.**

Move alpha In **Government and Binding Theory,** a single, universal rule that permits the transfer of any phrasal or lexical category from one part of a sentence to another in such a way that the operation involves substitution or adjunction; also called **Alpha Movement.** See also **adjunction; movement; subjacency; substitution; transformation.**

movement In Generative Grammar, a class of transformation in which a constituent is moved from one place in a phrase-marker to another; also called **permutation** or **reordering.** Two types of movement are recognized: adjunction and substitution. See also **adjunction; Move alpha; substitution; transformation.**

multilateral See **opposition.**

multilingualism A situation where a speech community (or an individual) makes use of several languages; sometimes called **plurilingualism.** The term may subsume bilingual-

ism—strictly, the use of two languages—but is often contrasted with it, by emphasizing the use of more than two languages. See also **bilingualism; language contact.**

multi-valued feature See **binary feature.**

murmur See **breathy voice.**

mutation A change in the quality of a sound because of the influence of sounds in adjacent morphemes or words; for example, initial consonant mutation in Welsh (e.g. *pen* 'head'; *mhen* 'my head').

N The abbreviation for **noun.**

narrative A discourse recounting a real or fictional sequence of events. As a major topic within literary pragmatics, the study of narrative deals with the temporal and logical structure of a story, spoken or written, especially as encountered in literary fiction. The structural study of narrative is **narratology;** the narrative properties of a text are its **narrativity.** The systems of cultural, historical, and inter-textual knowledge which the writer and reader bring to a text are sometimes said to be a part of **narrative competence.** Units of discourse which are structurally similar to narratives (such as explanations, task directions, and spatial descriptions) are sometimes called **pseudo-narratives.** See also **actant; discourse; evaluation; foregrounding; literary pragmatics; orientation; script 2.**

narrative competence See **competence; narrative.**

narratology See **narrative.**

narrow transcription See **transcription.**

narrow vowel See **width.**

nasal A type of **resonant** consonant, involving a complete closure of the oral tract at the same time as the pathway between soft palate and pharynx is opened; examples include [m] and [n]. In Phonological Feature Theory, a feature characterized by complete or partial oral closure. See also **consonant; nasalization.**

nasalization The perceived nasal resonance heard on sounds (most commonly, vowels) where the soft palate has been lowered during articulation. **Nasalized** vowels typically occur in the immediate environment of nasal consonants (e.g. [m], [n]). Sounds with reduced nasal resonance are **denasalized** or **hyponasal;** those with excessive nasal resonance are **hypernasal.** In Phonological Feature Theory, **nasal** contrasts with **oral** as a cavity feature, grouped along with lateral as a secondary aperture. See also **cavity; cavity feature; nasal; secondary aperture.**

native speaker Someone for whom a particular language is a mother tongue, which is also called **first language** or **native language.**

natural class See **naturalness.**

natural gender See **gender.**

Natural Generative Phonology An approach to generative phonology which requires that phonological rules and representations bear a direct relation to surface linguistic forms. See also **naturalness; phonology.**

natural language A language used in ordinary human communication, as opposed to theoretical or artificial systems. See also **language.**

natural language interface The point of connection between the domain of Natural Language Processing and that of computational systems, as encountered in the task of providing access to language databases. See also **Natural Language Processing.**

Natural Language Processing (NLP) A branch of computational linguistics which deals with the computational processing of textual materials in natural human languages. Its applications include such areas as machine translation and literary text analysis. Within a language procesing system, different components may be referred to as **processors,** e.g. a pragmatic processor for determining the nature of speech acts, or a discourse processor for determining inter-sentence reference. See also **computational linguistics; linear processing; natural language interface.**

naturalness The supposed conformity of a linguistic analysis to universal, innate principles; in phonology, the phonetic plausibility of an analysis. A **natural class** occurs if fewer phonetic features are needed to specify a set of segments than to specify any one member of the set. See also **natural phonology; Natural Generative Phonology.**

natural phonology An approach to phonology that postulates the central role of a set of phonetically plausible, universal, innate processes governing the sound system of a language. All of phonology is said to follow from the structure and abilities of the human vocal and perceptual systems. **Natural phonological processes** are responses to the difficulties encountered in the production and perception of speech. See also **innateness; Natural Generative Phonology; naturalness.**

negation A process or construction that typically expresses the contradiction of some or all of the meaning of a sentence. In English, negation is primarily expressed by the use of the **negative particle** *not* or the **contracted negative** *n't.* **Negative polarity** items are those words or phrases that can appear especially in negative environments in a sentence (e.g. *any*). See also **polarity.**

negative transfer See **contrastive analysis; transfer.**

Neogrammarian Hypothesis The view, expounded by the nineteenth century philologists known as the Junggrammatiker or Neogrammarians, that sound laws admit no exceptions. See also **philology.**

neologism The creation of a new lexical item as a response to changed circumstances in the external world. See also **nonce word.**

nesting The insertion of one or more linguistic units (usually phrases or clauses) within the structure of an **endocentric construction,** e.g *the table in the corner near the door.* See also **embedding; endocentric construction.**

network A state-and-path representation of a sentence—a

state being a point at which a new condition can be introduced, in putting together a construction, and a **path** being a transition between states, which is dependent on a condition being met. A grammar based on such representations is a **network grammar.** See also **parsing; procedural grammar; Transition Network Grammar.**

neurolinguistics The branch of linguistics that studies the basis in the human nervous system for language development and use, and attempts to construct a model of the brain's control over the processes of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and signing; also called **neurological linguistics.** See also **alexia; aphasia; apraxia; clinical linguistics.**

neutral 1 Characteristic of the visual appearance of the lips when they are held in a relaxed position, with no rounding of the lips. See also **rounding.** 2 Descriptive of a lax vowel made in the center of the vowel articulation area. See also **shwa.**

neutralizable See **opposition.**

neutralization The loss of a distinction between phonemes in a particular environment; for example, the contrast between aspirated and unaspirated plosives is lost after /s/ in English (e.g. *stop*). See also **contrast; opposition; phoneme.**

new See **given.**

NGP The abbreviation for **Natural Generative Phonology.**

NLP The abbreviation for **Natural Language Processing.**

node Any point in a phrase-marker from which one or more branches emanate. A node that immediately dominates another is called a **mother** node; the dominated node is its **daughter;** and if two nodes are directly dominated by the same node, they are **sister** nodes. Nodes that do not dominate other categories are **terminal nodes;** nodes that do so dominate are **non-terminal nodes.** See also **dominance; phrase-marker; tree.**

NOM An abbreviation for **nominative.**

nomenclature A hierarchically-arranged list of names (terms), providing a classification and a standard of usage. See also **hierarchy; lexicon.**

nominal Characteristic of a noun; e.g., a **nominal group** is equivalent to a noun phrase. Often used as a substantive, for words that have some of the attributes of nouns but not all (e.g. *the rich*). A **predicate nominal** is a nominal item used to assert a property of an individual, e.g. *a doctor* in *became a doctor,* or *a teacher* in *work as a teacher*). **Nominalization** is the process or result of forming a noun from some other word class (e.g. *good* + *ness*); in classical transformational grammar, it was the derivation of a noun phrase fom an underlying clause. See also **noun; predicate.**

nominal aphasia See **anomia.**

nominal group See **group.**

nominative An inflectional category of case, typically taken by a noun phrase (often a single noun or pronoun) when it is the subject of a verb. In **Government and Binding Theory,** NOM case is assigned to the NP governed by I with AGR. See also **case; inflection 1.**

non-areal features See **areal linguistics.**

nonce word A word that a speaker consciously invents or accidentally uses on a single occasion, to solve an immediate problem of communication; also called a **nonce formation.** See also **neologism.**

non-discrete grammar A type of grammar proposed by John Robert Ross in the early 1970s that gives a central role to such features as indeterminacy and marginally grammatical sentences, and considers such notions as grammaticality and rule applicability to be matters of degree. See also **discreteness.**

normative rule A linguistic rule considered to set a socially approved standard of correctness for language use; a systematic collection of such rules constitutes a **normative grammar.** See also **prescriptivism.**

notional grammar See **grammar.**

noun A word class, traditionally defined as the 'name of a person, place, or thing', and described linguistically in terms of morphological and syntactic properties (e.g inflecting for number, functioning as subject); generally subclassified into **common** and **proper** types, and analyzed in terms of grammatical features such as number, gender, case, and countability. A construction with a noun as head is a **noun phrase (NP).** See also **case; countability; gender; number; proper noun; substantive; word class.**

noun incorporation The inclusion of an object noun within a verb form, as in *to berry-pick.* In some languages, a generic noun (e.g. 'vehicle') is included within a verb, thereby cross-classifying a specific noun that is governed by the verb (e.g. 'bus').

noun phrase See **noun.**

NP The abbreviation for **noun phrase.**

nuclear stress See **nucleus 1; stress.**

nuclear tone See **nucleus 1; tone.**

nucleus 1 The syllable in an intonation unit which has the greatest pitch prominence; the **nuclear syllable** carries the **nuclear tone.** In Generative Phonology, the analogous notion is **nuclear stress,** the relevant stress assignment rule being referred to as the **Nuclear Stress Rule.** See also **intonation; tone.** 2 See **syllable.**

null element See **empty element.**

number A grammatical category used for the analysis of word classes, especially nouns, that display such contrasts as **singular, plural,** and **dual;** the contrasts of 'one' vs. 'two' vs. 'many', respectively, generally correspond to the number of real-world entities referred to, but there is no straightforward one-to-one correlation. See also **countability.**

object A major constituent of sentence or clause structure, traditionally associated with the receiver or goal of an action

(e.g. *the dog* in *The cat chased the dog*). A widely recognized distinction is between **direct** and **indirect object,** as in *Mary gave a letter to John,* where *a letter* is direct and *to John* is indirect. The noun phrase governed by a preposition is sometimes called the **object** of the preposition. **Objective** is often used as an alternative to accusative, and is contrasted with **subjective.** In Case Grammar, **objective** is the semantically most neutral case—referring to a noun whose role in the action is identified by the semantic interpretation of the verb itself. See also **accusative; complement; goal.**

objective genitive See **subject.**

obligatory transformation A type of transformational rule, recognized in early transformational grammar, which must apply at a given stage in a derivation, when its structural description is met, if a well-formed sentence is to result; contrasts with an **optional transformation,** where it is not essential for the rule to apply (e.g. changing positive to negative). See also **transformation.**

oblique Characteristic of all the case forms of a noun phrase (typically, a single noun or pronoun) except that of the unmarked case (or nominative). See also **case; inflection 1; nominative.**

observational adequacy See **adequacy.**

obsolescence **1** In historical linguistics, the gradual loss of a lexical item because changes in the external world eliminate the opportunity for its utterance. **2** The gradual loss of a language as its transmission between generations ceases and the number of its native speakers diminishes. See also **language death.**

obstruent A major subdivision of consonant sounds, in terms of manner of articulation, in which the vocal tract is sufficiently constricted to interfere with free air flow; usually contrasted with **approximant** or **sonorant.** See also **manner of articulation.**

obviative A **fourth-person** form used in some languages, usually contrasting with the third person to refer to an entity distinct from that already referred to ('someone/something else'). See also **person.**

occlusion The duration of the closure made while a plosive is being articulated. A plosive is sometimes referred to as an **occlusive.** See also **plosive.**

occupational dialect See **dialect.**

oesophageal See **esophageal.**

off-glide An articulatory movement which occurs as the vocal organs leave the position taken up by one speech sound and travel toward the position required for the next sound (or toward a position of rest); contrasts with an **on-glide,** which occurs as the vocal organs approach their target position for the articulation of a sound, either from a previous sound or from the position of rest. See also **glide.**

on-glide See **off-glide.**

onomasiology The study of sets of associated concepts in relation to the linguistic forms that designate them; for example, the study of the ways lexical items can be organized conceptually in a section of an encyclopedia. This direction of study, from concepts to items (as in a typical thesaurus) is sometimes contrasted with **semasiology,** where the direction of study is from items to concepts. See also **semantics.**

onomastics A branch of semantics that studies the etymology of proper names, such as **anthroponymy,** the names of people, and **toponymy,** of places.

onomatopoeia See **phonesthetics.**

onset See **syllable.**

ontogeny The chronological acquisition, development, and decay of language in the individual; contrasts with **phylogeny,** the corresponding study in the speech community as a whole. See also **acquisition.**

opaque **1** In generative phonology, descriptive of the extent to which the applications of a given rule to a given form cannot be seen in the phonetic output at the end of the derivation; contrasts with **transparent.** See also **derivation.** **2** In generative syntax, descriptive of the conditions specifying the grammatical contexts in which an expression cannot be free; also contrasts with **transparent.** See also **Binding Theory.**

open **1** Descriptive of the lips when they are held relatively wide apart, but without noticeable rounding. See also **neutral 1; rounding.** **2** Descriptive of a syllable which ends in a vowel; contrasts with a **closed** syllable, which ends in a consonant. See also **syllable.** **3** In language acquisition, descriptive of the variable item at the two-element stage of sentence development, the other being referred to as the **pivot** (e.g. the first element in the utterances *see there, go there, cat there*). See also **acquisition.** **4** See **closed class.**

open vowel A vowel produced with relatively low tongue position; contrasts with **close vowel.**

opposition A linguistically important difference between units, especially in phonology. In the Prague School's theory of **distinctive oppositions,** four main types are recognized (here exemplified with English units): (1) **bilateral** (e.g. /t/ vs. /d/, where these are the only units in the system that are alveolar/plosive, differentiated by the single feature of voicing) vs. **multilateral** (e.g. /d/ vs. /f/, where there is more than one parameter of contrast); (2) **proportional** (e.g. /f/ vs. /v/, where other pairs of sounds display the same kind of contrast) vs. **isolated** (e.g. /v/ vs. /l/, where there are no other segments contrasted in this way); (3) **privative** (e.g. /p/ vs. /b/, where one member is marked by the presence of a feature, which its opposite member lacks) vs. **gradual** (e.g. front vowels, where there are degrees of difference along a scale) vs. **equipollent** (e.g. /p/ vs. /k/, where the members are seen as logically equivalent to each other, contrasted neither gradually nor by a binary feature); and (4) **constant** (where the contrast is maintained in all possible

positions) vs. **neutralizable** (where the contrast disappears in certain positions, as in plosives following initial /s/). See also **contrast.**

optative A grammatical category of mood, expressing a wish. See also **desiderative; mood.**

optional transformation See **obligatory transformation.**

oracy Ability in speaking and listening comprehension, especially as encountered in the development of language skills in mother-tongue education; contrasts with **literacy.** See also **educational linguistics.**

oral See **cavity; nasalization.**

oral tradition The spoken expression of a culture, as found in sagas, myths, folktales, folk poetry, and other texts transmitted from generation to generation without use of written records. See also **anthropological linguistics.**

order The pattern of relationships constituting or underlying a linear sequence of linguistic units, as encountered in such notions as **word order** or **morpheme order.** In generative linguistics, the term **ordering** or **rule ordering** is also used for the application of the rules of a grammar in a particular sequence. See also **bleeding; cycle; extrinsic ordering; feeding; sequence.**

order of mention In psycholinguistics, a use of language where the order of events in the outside world is paralleled by the order in the sequence of semantic units within the utterance; for example, *After John left, he went home* (which preserves order of mention) vs. *John went home after he left* (which does not).

ordinal number See **cardinal number.**

organic form A theory of literary discourse which asserts that all parts of a text stand in a principled relation to other parts and to the structure as a whole. This conception is an important factor in the analysis of the esthetic uses of language. See also **stylistics.**

organs of speech See **vocal organs.**

orientation In the study of narrative, an element which identifies the time, place, persons, and situation in a story. See also **narrative.**

oro-nasal process The stage in the articulation of speech which involves the position of the soft palate, determining whether the airstream passes through the oral or the nasal cavities.

orthography A standardized system for writing a specific language; a prescribed spelling system. See also **script 1; standard.**

other-repair See **repair.**

output In generative grammar, a sentence which is produced as a result of the application of a rule or set of rules.

output constraint See **filter.**

overextension A relationship between child and adult meaning in a lexical item, where the child's item has a wider range of application than the equivalent adult term (as when *cat* is used for other animals as well as cats); contrasts with **underextension,** where the child's item has a more restricted range (as when *cat* refers only to one kind of cat), and **mismatch,** where there is no overlap at all with the adult meaning. See also **acquisition.**

overgeneralization See **generalization 2.**

overgeneration In generative grammar, the consequence of a rule that generates ungrammatical structures as well as grammatical ones. See also **generative grammar; rule.**

overlapping In phonology, the possibility that a **phone** may be assigned to more than one phoneme; also called **phonemic overlapping.** In **partial overlap,** a given sound is assigned to phoneme A in one phonetic context and phoneme B in another; in **complete overlap,** successive occurrences of the sound in the same context are assigned sometimes to A, sometimes to B. See also **biuniqueness; invariance; phoneme.**

overt See **covert.**

overt prestige In sociolinguistics, a type of prestige attached to the use of a language or variety, produced by following the norms set by influential members of society; contrasts with **covert prestige,** where a positive value is associated with the use of vernacular forms to emphasize solidarity and local identity.

P An abbreviation variously used for **phrase, predicator, preposition,** and **particle.** It is the abbreviation for **phonological** in the term **P-rules.**

palatal See **palate.**

palatalization See **palate; secondary articulation.**

palate The arched structure that forms the roof of the mouth, much used for the articulation of speech sounds; divided into the **hard palate,** the immobile bony area immediately behind the alveolar ridge, and the **soft palate** or **velum,** the mobile fleshy continuation that culminates in the uvula. **Palatal** consonants are made when the front of the tongue articulates with the hard palate (e.g. as in German *ich* 'I'); this term is also sometimes used with reference to high front vowels, which are made approaching the palate. **Palatalization** refers to any articulation involving a movement towards the hard palate. **Palatography** is the instrumental study of articulation in the palatal area. See also **alveo-palatal; electropalatography; palato-alveolar.**

palato-alveolar Descriptive of a consonant sound made by the blade of the tongue with the alveolar ridge while the front of the tongue is raised toward the hard palate; for example, the initial sound of English *ship*. See also **alveo-palatal; palate.**

pandialectal Descriptive of any linguistic feature, rule, etc. that is applicable to all the dialects of a language. See also **dialect.**

panlectal grammar A model of grammar within which all individual varieties or lects can be interrelated. See also **lect; polylectal grammar.**

paradigm The set of substitutional relationships a linguistic

unit has with other units in a specific context; a class of paradigmatically related elements is often referred to as a system, e.g. the pronoun system, the case system. **Paradigmatic** or **associative relations,** along with **sequential** or **syntagmatic relations,** constitute the statement of a linguistic unit's identity within the language system. More narrowly, the term is used for a set of grammatically conditioned forms all derived from a single root or stem. See also **substitution; syntagm; system.**

paragrammatism A disorder involving specific errors of morphology or syntax in the spoken or written language of someone suffering from aphasia; also, one such error. The term is sometimes applied to errors made by normal speakers. See also **aphasia; phonological paraphasia; semantic paraphasia.**

paralanguage Variations in tone of voice that seem to be less systematic than other aspects of suprasegmental phonology (notably, intonation and stress), such as creaky or breathy voice; also called **paralinguistic features.** The term is sometimes broadened to include other features of speech (e.g. pauses) and non-verbal features (e.g. kinesic features). Certain types of paralinguistic feature are sometimes called **voice qualifiers.** See also **kinesics; pause; suprasegmental; voice quality 2.**

paralexia See **alexia.**

parameter In **Government and Binding Theory,** a specification of the variations that a principle of grammar manifests among different languages; for example, a **head parameter** specifies the positions of heads within phrases. Determining the values of parameters for given languages is called **parameter-setting.** See also **head; principles.**

parametric phonetics An approach to phonetics that sees speech as a single physiological system in which the range of articulatory variables or **parameters** is seen to be continually in operation, interacting along the time dimension to produce a continuum of sound which listeners segment according to the rules of the language. See also **coarticulation.**

paraphasia See **phonological paraphasia; semantic paraphasia.**

paraphrase The process or result of producing alternative versions of a sentence or text without changing its meaning. Syntactic paraphrase is used as a major procedure for establishing certain types of transformation. See also **meaning; transformation.**

parasite vowel See **anaptyxis.**

parasitic gap See **gap.**

paratactic See **hypotactic.**

paratone A coherent and identifiable sequence of intonation units; analogous to the concept of 'paragraph' in written language. See also **intonation.**

parole See **langue.**

paronymy The semantic relationship between words derived from the same root; especially, the formation of a word from a word in another language with only a slight change (e.g. French *pont* 'bridge' from Latin *pons*).

parsing In traditional grammar, the pedagogical exercise of labeling the grammatical elements of single sentences. In linguistics, the procedure is more concerned with the criteria of analysis which led to the identification of these elements. The term is now widely used for the general analytic process employed in computational linguistics. In network grammars, a text is analyzed or **parsed** in terms of syntactic, semantic, and referential information, as presented in the form of a **parse tree.** A parse is **deterministic** when the path through a tree is completely determined, so that there are no ambiguous sentences. In **chart parsing,** a number of 'vertices' (identified with the positions between words) are connected by 'edges' (representing complete or incomplete constituents). A parsed corpus is sometimes referred to as a **treebank. Semantic parsing** is a method that takes a sentence as input and produces a semantic representation. See also **computational linguistics; network grammar; representation; transition network grammar; tree.**

participant roles **1** The functions that can be ascribed to people taking part in a linguistic interaction, such as the speaker, addressee, and message source (other than the speaker). See also **pragmatics.** **2** The semantic functions attached to clause elements, such as agent and recipient. See also **case.**

participle In traditional grammar, a word derived from a verb and used as an adjective (e.g. *a smiling face*); contrasts with the **gerund** or verbal noun (e.g. *Swearing is not allowed*). In linguistics, the term is generally restricted to non-finite forms of a verb other than the infinitive; in English, often classified into **present** and **past** forms, or (where the temporal implication is inappropriate) into ***-ing*** and ***-ed*** forms (e.g. *I'm running, I've walked*). See also **non-finite.**

particle (P, PRT) An invariable item with grammatical function, especially one that does not readily fit into a standard classification of parts of speech; frequently includes conjunctions and prepositions.

particle phonology See **dependency phonology.**

part of speech See **word class.**

passive voice See **active 1.**

path In generative grammar, an unbroken series of branches and nodes moving in a single direction with respect to the top of a tree diagram. See also **network; phrase-marker; tree.**

patient In some grammatical analyses of a sentence, the entity that is affected by the action of the verb, including the object of a transitive verb and the subject of a stative or passive construction. See also **object.**

pattern congruity In phonology, a regular and symmetrical pattern of relationships between the units of a system.

pattern drill In language teaching, the use of a substitution-frame technique for the practice of a particular structure. See also **frame; substitution.**

pause A temporary break in the flow of speech, often classified into **silent pause,** where there is no vocalization, and **filled pause,** where a hesitation noise is introduced (e.g. *erm, ah*). In grammar, the criterion of **potential pause** is sometimes used as a method for establishing the word units in a language, since pauses are more likely at word boundaries than within words. See also **paralanguage; phonemic clause; word.**

peak See **syllable.**

pedagogical grammar The activity or result of producing a grammatical description of a language whose purpose is to facilitate the teaching and learning of that language. See also **educational linguistics; grammar 2.**

pedagogical linguistics See **educational linguistics.**

perception See **speech perception.**

PERF An abbreviation sometimes used for **perfect** or **perfective.**

perfect (PERF) A grammatical category, typically applying to verb forms, of a temporal or durative kind, sometimes handled under the heading of tense and sometimes under aspect; for example, *I go* vs. *I have gone,* or *I have gone* vs. *I had gone,* traditionally called the **pluperfect,** or **past perfect.** In **perfect** contexts, an event in the past is seen as having some present relevance. In **perfective aspect,** a contrast is typically seen as a whole, regardless of the time contrasts that may be a part of it; **imperfective** or **non-perfective aspect** typically draws attention to the internal time-structuring of the situation. See also **aspect; tense 1.**

perfective See **perfect.**

performance Language seen as a set of specific utterances produced by speakers; analogous to the Saussurean concept of **parole,** and contrasted with **competence** or Saussurean **langue.** A grammar that takes into account the various biological and psychological processes involved in speech is a **performance grammar.** See also **competence; grammar 1; langue.**

performative A type of sentence or verb where an action is performed by virtue of the sentence having been uttered, such as *I apologize, I promise;* performative utterances contrast with constative utterances. See also **constative; speech act.**

periodicity In Metrical Phonology, the repetition of elements in a metrical grid, which forms the basis of the rhythmic structure of an utterance; e.g., in the grid for *The man appeared,* the bottom-level elements occur four times *(the—man—ap—peared),* and the elements at the next higher level occur twice *(man—peared).* See also **grid; Metrical Phonology.**

periphery See **core grammar.**

periphrasis The use of separate words instead of inflectional affixes to express the same grammatical relationship; for example, the comparison of adjectives in English involves both inflectional forms (e.g. *bigger*) and **periphrastic** forms (e.g. *more interesting*). See also **inflection 1.**

perlocutionary act In **Speech Act Theory,** an act that is performed when an utterance achieves a particular **perlocutionary effect** on the behavior, beliefs, feelings, etc. of a listener (e.g. utterances that frighten, ridicule, persuade); contrasts with **locutionary** and **illocutionary** acts. See also **illocutionary act; speech act.**

permutation See **movement.**

person A grammatical category referring to the number and nature of the participants in a situation; speakers use **first person** pronouns to refer to themselves, or to a group including themselves (*I, we*); they use **second person** pronouns to refer to the person(s) they are addressing; and they use **third person** pronouns to refer to other people, animals, things, etc. Some languages recognize a **fourth person** or **obviative.** Verb constructions that lack a person contrast, usually appearing in the third person, are called **impersonal.** See also **inclusive; obviative; T/V forms.**

PF The abbreviation for **phonetic form** in Government and Binding Theory.

pharyngeal Descriptive of a consonant sound made by the root of the tongue with the wall of the pharynx. Any articulation involving a constriction of the pharynx is said to be **pharyngealized.** See also **cavity; secondary articulation.**

phatic communion Language used for establishing an interpersonal atmosphere or maintaining social contact, rather than for exchanging information or ideas (e.g. comments on the weather or enquiries about health), thus serving the **phatic function** of language. See also **function.**

philology Traditionally, the study of language history, sometimes including the historical study of literary texts; also called **comparative philology.** See also **comparative linguistics; diachronic linguistics.**

philosophical linguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the role of language in relation to the understanding and elucidation of philosophical concepts, as well as the philosophical status of linguistic theories, methods, and observations; within philosophy, often called **linguistic philosophy** or the **philosophy of language.**

phonation The use of the vocal folds to produce the range of voiced sounds in speech as well as certain other laryngeal effects or **phonation types,** such as creaky or breathy voice. See also **breathy voice; creaky voice; vocal folds; voicing.**

phonatory setting See **setting.**

phone In phonetics, the smallest perceptible discrete segment of sound in a stream of speech; in segmental phonology, the physical realization of a phoneme. See also **phoneme; phonic substance.**

phonematic unit In Prosodic Phonology, a consonant or

vowel, occurring in linear sequence, that cannot be handled in terms of prosodies. See also **prosody.**

phoneme The minimal unit in the sound system of a language, according to the traditional phonological theory called **phonemics** or **phonemic phonology;** analysis in these terms displays a language's **phonemic inventory, structure,** or **system.** Variant forms of a phoneme are **allophones.** See also **allo-; Phonological Feature Theory; phonology.**

phonemic clause In psycholinguistic studies of pause, a grammatical structure produced within a single intonation contour, and bounded by junctures. See also **pause.**

phonemic overlapping See **overlapping.**

phonemic tier In **Autosegmental Phonology,** the tier containing segments specified for the features that identify consonants and vowels (other than [syllabic]). See also **tier.**

phonesthetics The study of the esthetic properties of sound, especially the symbolism attributed to individual sounds, sound clusters, or sound types (e.g. smallness in the close vowels of *teeny weeny*). Direct sound/meaning correspondence is also called **phonesthesia** or **synesthesia,** and the postulated sound units are sometimes analyzed as **phonesthemes.** A direct linguistic imitation of a sound in nature is called **onomatopoeia.** See also **phonostylistics; sound symbolism.**

phonetically consistent forms (PCFs) The first recognizably recurrent, meaningful units of speech produced by a child, phonetically less controlled than the corresponding forms in adult speech; also called **proto-words** or **vocables.** See also **acquisition.**

phonetic form (PF) In Government and Binding Theory, the output of the phonological component of a grammar, or the phonological component itself. See also **Government and Binding Theory.**

phonetics The study of the characteristics of human sound-making, especially of those sounds used in speech; generally divided into articulatory, acoustic, and auditory branches. **Instrumental phonetics** is the study of any of these aspects using physical apparatus; the use of scientific methodology is reflected in the term **experimental phonetics. General phonetics** emphasizes the aim of discovering universal principles governing the nature and use of speech sounds. See also **acoustic phonetics; articulatory phonetics; auditory phonetics; parametric phonetics; phonology.**

phonetic universal A feature of pronunciation shared by all languages, resulting from the same underlying processes of human speech production or speech perception.

phonic substance Speech regarded as a set of physically definable acoustic, articulatory, or auditory properties; also called **phonetic substance.** See also **phonetics.**

phonological encoder See **formulator.**

Phonological Feature Theory An analysis of vowels and consonants in terms of additive components within a single phonetic framework, the sounds being classified using a hierarchical arrangement of binary features. Four general classes of feature ('hyper-features') are commonly recognized: the place, or articulatory gesture; the type of stricture; the oro-nasal process; and the laryngeal activity. See also **cavity feature; distinctiveness; laryngeal activity; major class feature; manner of articulation; prosody; source feature; stricture type.**

phonological paraphasia In the study of anomia and related disorders, a type of incorrect response in which phonemic elements are absent, distorted, or misplaced wihin an otherwise recognizable word, such as *bandona* for *banana;* also known as **literal paraphasia.** See also **anomia; semantic paraphasia.**

phonologization In historical phonology, the process whereby sounds that were formerly allophones develop contrastive status through the loss of their conditioning environments. See also **phoneme.**

phonology The study of the sound systems of languages, or the sound systems themselves, and the rules that operate with them. In linguistic theory, it is seen either as a level of linguistic organization, contrasted with phonetics, grammar, and semantics, or as a component of a generative grammar, i.e. the **phonological component,** contrasted with the syntactic and semantic components. **Segmental phonology** analyzes speech into discrete segments, e.g. **phonemes; suprasegmental phonology,** also called **non-segmental** or **plurisegmental phonology,** analyzes those features that extend over more than one segment (e.g. intonation contours). **Phonological space** is a theoretical space within which a system of phonological contrasts can be thought to operate. **Phonological scaling** is an abstract account of phonology that aims to determine automatically, on the basis of a universal strength scale, the behavior of segments or segment classes in all possible structural positions. See also **atomic phonology; Autosegmental Phonology; Metrical Phonology; Natural Generative Phonology; natural phonology; prosody; segment.**

phonostylistics See **stylistics.**

phonotactics The sequential arrangements of phonological units that are possible in a language; for example, in English /spr-/ is a possible initial sequence, whereas /spm-/ is not. See also **phonology; taxis.**

phrasal verb A type of verb consisting of a sequence of lexical element plus one or more particles, e.g. *come in, sit down.* Subtypes may be distinguished on syntactic or semantic grounds, and 'phrasal' is sometimes used in a narrower sense to refer to one or other of these subtypes. See also **particle; verb.**

phrase (P) An element of structure typically containing more than one **word,** but lacking the subject-predicate structure usually found in a **clause;** traditionally classified into functional types related to word class (e.g. **noun phrase, verb phrase, adverb phrase**). In generative grammar, the term

has a broader application as part of a general characterization of the initial stage of sentence analysis. See also **phrase-marker; phrase-structure grammar.**

phrase-marker (PM) In generative linguistics, the structural representation of sentences in terms of a labeled bracketing, as assigned by the rules of the grammar; usually presented in the form of a tree diagram. See also **bracketing; representation; tree.**

phrase-structure grammar (PSG) A type of grammar containing rules, called **phrase-structure rules** or **PS rules,** capable not only of generating **strings** of linguistic elements, but also of providing a **constituent** analysis of the strings. The **phrase-structure component** of a transformational grammar specifies the hierarchical structure of a sentence, the linear sequence of its constituents, and indirectly some types of syntactic relations. Several approaches to syntax have been developed that are equivalent to PSGs, but do not employ PS-rules, such as Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar. See also **Chomsky hierarchy; finite-state grammar; Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar; rule; transformation.**

phylogeny See **ontogeny.**

phylum The highest level of classification in genetic classification, representing a group of languages where the genetic relationship has not been fully demonstrated; contrasts with **family,** which is used for established levels of classification (though sometimes the term 'family' is used loosely for both kinds of grouping). See also **genetic classification.**

pidgin A language with a markedly reduced grammatical structure, lexicon, and stylistic range; the native language of no one, it emerges when members of two mutually unintelligible speech communities attempt to communicate. Contrasts with a creole, which is created when a pidgin acquires native speakers. See also **contact language; creole; language contact.**

pied piping In generative linguistics, one of the processes involved in deriving such sentences as *To whom did you turn for help?;* the preposition optionally moves to the front of the clause, following its WH-NP object (as the rats of Hamelin followed the pied piper). See also **stranded.**

pitch The attribute of auditory sensation in terms of which a sound may be ordered on a scale from 'low' to 'high'; corresponds to some degree with the acoustic feature of fundamental frequency, which in the study of speech is based upon the number of complete cycles of vibration of the vocal folds. See also **intonation; tone.**

pivot See **open 3.**

place of articulation The location of the chief articulatory constriction during the production of a consonant sound. The main places of articulation involve the action of the lips (labial, bilabial); the tip or blade of the tongue and the upper teeth or teeth ridge (dental, alveolar); the blade or front of the tongue and the hard palate (palato-alveolar, palatal); the back of the tongue and the soft palate or uvula (velar, uvular); and the root of the tongue and the back wall of the pharynx (pharyngeal). See also **articulation.**

plain In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of **1** a sound with a relatively wide mouth opening and a relatively strong high-frequency component (as in unrounded sounds), contrasting with **flat,** where the mouth-opening is relatively narrow; **2** a sound lacking any palatalization feature, contrasting with **sharp** sounds, where the tongue is raised towards the hard palate. See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

plan In computational natural-language generation, a sequence of speech acts (e.g. 'inform somebody of something') composed by the macroplanner to bring about a particular goal. See also **conceptualizer; language generation; script 2.**

plateauing In Autosegmental Phonology, a type of rule in which a sequence of high-low-high vowels is changed to high-high-high. See also **Autosegmental Phonology.**

play language A linguistic code derived by a small set of rules, for jocular purposes, from a language in common use in a particular speech community; also called a **language game.** The notion includes the many forms of children's game (pig Latin, talking backwards, etc.), secret codes, and speech disguises, and may involve serious as well as playful purposes (as with thieves' rhyming slang). See also **verbal play.**

pleonastic pronoun A pronoun that does not stand for any noun; for example *it* in *It's raining.* See also **pronoun.**

plereme A minimal unit of meaning sometimes recognized in componential analysis. In Glossematics, the minimal unit of meaningful expression, analogous to the morpheme. See also **componential analysis; Glossematics; morpheme.**

plosive A consonant sound made when a complete closure in the vocal tract is suddenly released (e.g. [p], [d]). The outward movement of air upon release is called **plosion.** Often used to include stops and affricates. See also **affricate; implosive; stop.**

pluperfect See **perfect.**

plural See **number.**

plurilingualism See **multilingualism.**

plurisegmental See **phonology.**

plus juncture See **juncture.**

PM An abbreviation sometimes used for **phrase-marker.**

poetics The study of those aspects of linguistic structure which make a verbal message a work of art, and which thus identify the esthetic function of language in literary texts. The analysts involved are sometimes called **poeticians.** See also **stylistics.**

polarity The system of positive/negative contrastivity found in a language, expressed syntactically (e.g. *not*), morphologically (e.g. *unwise*), or lexically (e.g. *fat* vs. *thin*). See **negation.**

politeness phenomena Features of language which serve to mediate norms of social behavior, in terms of such notions as courtesy, rapport, deference, and distance. See also **honorific; interactional sociolinguistics; T/V forms.**

polygenesis See **monogenesis.**

polylectal grammar A type of grammar that would account for all (or in some definitions, many) of the varieties of language used by the individual; contrasts with grammars that ignore regional and social variations. See also **lect; panlectal grammar.**

polysemy The association of one lexical item with a range of different meanings, such as the various senses of *plain* ('clear, ordinary', etc.). A large proportion of a language's vocabulary is **polysemic** or **polysemous.** See also **homonymy.**

polysynthetic language A type of language characterized by long, morphologically complex word forms, often functioning as entire sentences. See also **incorporating language; typology.**

polysystemicism An approach to linguistic analysis, associated with J. R. Firth, in which different linguistic systems are set up at different places in structure, no attempt being made to identify the systems with each other. The approach has been developed primarily in terms of **polysystemic phonology,** as opposed to **monosystemic phonology.** See also **prosody.**

portmanteau In morphology, a case where a single **morph** can be analyzed into more than one morpheme, as in French *au* (=*a* + *le*) 'to the'. See also **morpheme.**

position 1 A functionally contrastive place within a linguistic unit; for example, initial, medial, or final position within a word or sentence. **Positional variant** refers to the formal variations introduced into a linguistic unit because of the conditioning influence of its linguistic context. See also **allo-; function 1.** 2 In phonetics, the location of the vocal organs during the articulation of a sound. See also **place of articulation.**

positive See **affirmative; degree; polarity.**

Possible-Worlds Semantics An approach to semantics based on the notion of a **possible world**—a complete and total way that the world could be—by defining the truth conditions of a sentence as the ways the world must be if the sentence is to be true. See also **Model-Theoretic Semantics.**

post-creole continuum See **creole.**

post-cyclic rule See **cycle.**

postmodification The part of a construction that follows the head of an **endocentric** phrase, such as *by the house* in *The car by the house is John's*. See also **head; modification 1; phrase; premodification.**

postmodifying genitive See **genitive.**

postposition A word that follows a noun phrase (often a single noun or pronoun) to form a structural constituent, often of adverbial function; analogous to the use of a preposition before a noun phrase. See also **preposition.**

potential pause See **pause.**

PR An abbreviation sometimes used for **preposition.**

pragmalinguistics The study of language use from the viewpoint of the language's structural resources; contrasts with pragmatic studies which examine the conditions on language use deriving from the social situation, and which are sometimes called **sociopragmatics.** See also **pragmatics 1.**

pragmatic competence See **competence.**

pragmatics 1 The study of language from the point of view of the users—especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction, and the effects their use of language has on the other participants in an act of communication. The study of the principles governing the communicative use of language, especially as encountered in conversations, is sometimes called **general pragmatics.** The study of verbal interaction in such domains as counseling, medical interviews, language teaching, and judicial sessions, where problems of communication are of critical importance, is the domain of **applied pragmatics.** See also **conversation analysis; deixis; implicature; literary pragmatics; pragmalinguistics; presupposition; speech act.** 2 See **semiotics.**

precedence In generative grammar, a type of relationship between pairs of **nodes** in a **phrase-marker:** one node **precedes** another when it occurs anywhere to the left of the other in the phrase-marker. See also **dominance; linear precedence rule.**

predeterminer An item that occurs before the **determiner** in a noun phrase (e.g. *all* in *all the people*).

predicate A major constituent of sentence structure, in which all obligatory constituents other than the subject are considered together. A traditional distinction recognizes **primary predication,** between a predicate and its subject, vs. **secondary predication,** between an adjunct complement of a noun phrase in a clause already containing a primary predication (e.g. the relationship between *Mary* and *happy* in *Mary returned home happy*). At a more detailed level, distinctions are often drawn between **predicative** and **nonpredicative** functions of words, such as the use of English adjectives in predicative (post-verbal) and attributive (prenominal) positions in English. **Predicator** is sometimes used for the verbal element of a clause structure. In Functional Grammar, a predicate is taken to be the basic element of a **predication,** listed in the lexicon in the form of a **predicate frame,** from which **nuclear predications** are formed by inserting appropriate terms into the argument positions. **Full predications** are then formed from nuclear predications through the use of satellites. See also **Functional Grammar; Predication Theory; satellite; sentence; subject.**

Predication Theory In some versions of Government and Binding Theory, a sub-theory whose central principle is that a predicate requires a subject (as in the use of dummy *it*).

See also **dummy; Government and Binding Theory; predicate.**

preference A major structural tendency in a language. For example, a **preferred clause type** is the usual pattern of clause elements in a language. In Conversation Analysis, **preference organization** refers to the structural allocation of preferred and dispreferred turn types in response to different activities (e.g. inviting, requesting). See also **Conversation Analysis; information flow.**

prefix See **affixation.**

prelinguistic 1 Characteristic of the hypothetical stages in speech production that precede those involved with language organization (e.g. cognitive awareness and attention). See also **psycholinguistics.** 2 In language acquisition, characteristic of the period immediately preceding the emergence of linguistic patterning in children's vocalization. See also **acquisition; vocalization.** 3 See **macrolinguistics.**

premodification The part of a construction that precedes the head of an **endocentric** phrase, such as the use of *Both the new red* in the phrase *Both the new red cars*. See also **head; modification 1; phrase; postmodification.**

PREP An abbreviation sometimes used for **preposition.**

preparatory *it* See **anticipatory *it*.**

preposing In generative grammar, moving a constituent to a position earlier in the sentence (e.g. *Today I went to town*). See also **fronting 2.**

preposition (P, PR, PREP) An item that typically precedes a noun phrase to form a single constituent of structure—a **prepositional phrase** or **prepositional group**—often used as an adverbial. Prepositional sequences of the type *in accordance with* are often called **complex prepositions.** In a broader sense, prepositions combine not only with a noun phrase but also with a prepositional phrase, a clause, or nothing (thus motivating a distinction between 'transitive' and 'intransitive' prepositions). See also **postposition.**

prescriptivism An approach that attempts to lay down rules of correctness as to how language should be used, employing such criteria as purity, logic, history, or literary excellence. A grammar based on this approach is a **prescriptive grammar,** contrasting with a **descriptive grammar.** A distinction is sometimes drawn between prescriptive and **proscriptive** rules, the latter being rules which forbid rather than command. See also **description; grammar 1.**

presentational Characteristic of a construction whose primary function is to introduce new entities and/or situations into a discourse, for example, *there*-sentences (e.g. *Once upon a time there lived a king*). See also **discourse.**

pressure In Phonological Feature Theory, an articulatory movement of the glottis or velum, where the airflow is directed outward, e.g. in an **ejective.** See also **Phonological Feature Theory; suction; supplementary movement.**

presupposition What a speaker assumes in saying a particular sentence, as opposed to what is actually asserted. More narrowly, in a two-part analysis of sentences, the information assumed or **presupposed** by the speaker is contrasted with the information at the center of the speaker's communicative interest, i.e. the focus. See also **entailment; focus.**

prevarication A suggested defining property of human language, referring to the way languages can be used to misinform (as in lying, irony, etc.).

primary vowel See **cardinal vowels.**

principles In Government and Binding Theory, grammatical statements that are much broader in scope than ordinary rules, and which take a slightly different form in different languages; these are specified by parameters. The overall approach is known as the **Principles and Parameters** theory of universal grammar. See also **Government and Binding Theory; parameter.**

privative See **opposition.**

pro In Government and Binding Theory, a non-anaphoric, phonologically empty pronominal; also called **little *pro*** to distinguish it from **PRO** or **big PRO,** the base-generated subject of certain infinitives. ***Pro*-drop** is a parameter that determines whether the subject of a clause can be suppressed; ***pro*-drop languages** (such as Italian) are distinguished from **non-*pro*-drop languages** (such as English). See also **Government and Binding Theory; parameter; pro-form.**

procedural grammar A type of network grammar that recognizes analysis as a set of procedures for interpreting what we hear (e.g. recognizing words in text, or trying words out as parts of constructions). See also **network grammar.**

procedural semantics In psycholinguistics, an approach which models the notion of 'sense' in terms of a set of mental operations that decide on the applicability of a lexical item to an entity or state of affairs. See also **semantics.**

process A concept in linguistic analysis whereby some elements are seen as resulting from a change operating on other elements. The notion is central to the **Item-and-Process** model of linguistic description. Several terms in contemporary linguistics reflect a process approach, such as those ending in *-ization* (e.g. pluralization, passivization). See also **Item-and-Arrangement.**

processing 1 An application in psycholinguistics of the general sense of this term, referring to the way the brain comprehends and produces language. See also **speech perception; speech production.** 2 In computational linguistics, the automated handling of language material. See also **Natural Language Processing.**

processor See **Natural Language Processing.**

production See **speech production.**

productivity The creative capacity of language users to produce and understand an indefinitely large number of sentences, sometimes suggested as a design feature of human language. In a narrower sense, a pattern is **productive** if it is repeatedly used to produce further instances of the same

type (e.g. the use of *-s* to form plural nouns in English); contrasts with **non-productive** or **unproductive** patterns, which lack any such potential (e.g. the plural formation involved in *mouse/mice*), and **semi-productive** forms, where there is limited or occasional productivity (e.g. the use of *un-* to form opposites).

pro-form An item in a sentence that substitutes for another item or construction; the central class of examples (which gave rise to the general term) is the pronoun, which substitutes for a noun phrase. Analogous terms include **pro-constituent, pro-NP,** and simply *pro*. See also ***pro;*** **pronoun; substitution.**

PROG An abbreviation often used for **progressive.**

progressive (PROG) A grammatical category, typically applied to verbs showing a contrast of a temporal or durative kind, sometimes handled under tense and sometimes under aspect. A **progressive** or **continuous** form, which emphasizes the duration or frequency of an action (e.g. *I was kicking*) contrasts with the **non-progressive** or **simple** form (e.g. *I kicked*), where these emphases are lacking. See also **aspect; tense.**

progressive assimilation See **assimilation.**

projection The property of a grammar enabling it to extend the analysis of any given set of sentences so that it applies also to the potentially infinite number of sentences in the language as a whole; the main means of doing this is the generative rule. More narrowly, in some models of generative grammar, **projection rules** are established in the semantic component, their function being to assign a semantic interpretation to each string of formatives generated by the syntactic component. In Government and Binding Theory, the **Projection Principle** projects the properties of lexical entries onto the structure of the sentence. In **X-bar Syntax, phrasal projections** or **bar projections** are the different types of phrasal expansion of any word-level category; all full phrases are **maximal projections**—levels above which the properties of the lexical entries for the heads have no influence. See also **generative grammar; X-bar Theory.**

prominence In auditory phonetics, the degree to which a sound or syllable stands out from others in its environment. In Metrical Phonology, the term has an abstract sense, referring to the relative weight between constituents in a metrical tree. See also **Metrical Phonology; stress.**

promotion See **advancement; ascension.**

pronominalization In classical transformational grammar, a rule that replaces a lexical noun phrase with a pronoun. In Government and Binding Theory, a **pronominal** is a type of noun phrase (including the class of personal pronouns, little *pro,* and big PRO) that plays an important role in Binding Theory. See also **Binding Theory; pronoun.**

pronoun An item that can substitute for a noun phrase (or single noun). Types of pronouns include **personal pronouns** (e.g. *I, you*), **possessive pronouns** (e.g. *my, mine*); **demonstrative pronouns** (e.g. *this, that*), **interrogative pronouns** (e.g. *who, which*), **reflexive pronouns** (e.g. *myself, yourself*), **indefinite pronouns** (e.g. *anyone, nobody*), **relative pronouns** (e.g. *who, whom*), and **resumptive** or **shadow pronouns** (e.g. *him,* in *John, I know him*). See also **person; pleonastic pronoun; T/V forms.**

prop A meaningless element introduced into a structure to ensure its grammaticality (e.g. the *it* in *It's a nice day*). **Substitute** words (e.g. *one* in *He's got one*) are also sometimes called prop words. See also **empty element; substitution.**

proper government In **Government and Binding Theory,** government by a lexical category. See also **government 2.**

proper noun A noun referring to an individual person, place, etc. (e.g. *Hilary, London*); also called **proper name;** contrasts with **common noun,** which refers to a member of a class or an abstract concept (e.g. *table, information*).

proportional See **opposition.**

proposition The unit of meaning that constitutes the subject matter of a statement, in the form of a simple declarative sentence. In Case Grammar, it is used in a narrower sense, as one of the underlying constituents of sentences, each proposition being analyzed in terms of a **predicate** word and its associated arguments. See also **argument; Case Grammar; meaning.**

proscriptive See **prescriptivism.**

Prosodic Phonology See **prosody.**

prosody Variation in pitch, loudness, tempo, and rhythm, as encountered in any use of spoken language (thus subsuming the traditional sense of the metrical features of versification); also called **prosodic features,** and in phonemics analyzed in terms of **prosodemes.** In generative phonology, prosodic features are one of the main dimensions of speech sound classification. In Metrical Phonology, one of the levels of structure in a metrical tree is the **prosodic level.** The canonical pattern of segments in a form is a **prosodic template.** In **Prosodic Phonology,** a **prosody** is a feature extending over a stretch of utterance (such as the syllable or sentence), contrasting with the segmental notion of phonematic units. See also **loudness; Metrical Phonology; phoneme; pitch; rhythm; tempo.**

prothesis A type of phonological intrusion by which an extra sound is added initially in a word (e.g. French *esprit* from Latin *spiritus*); a type of epenthesis. See also **epenthesis; intrusion.**

proto- **1** Descriptive of a linguistic form or state of a language said to be the ancestor of an attested form or language. See also **diachronic linguistics; proto-language.** **2** In child language acquisition, descriptive of the emerging linguistic system of the young child, e.g. **proto-words** or **proto-sentences.** See also **phonetically consistent forms.**

proto-language The common ancestor of the languages of a family, e.g. Proto-Indo-European. A proto-language im-

plies a **proto-culture** participated in by the speakers of the proto-language. See also **comparative method; family of languages.**

prototype A typical member of the extension of a referring expression; for example, a sparrow could be a prototype of a bird, whereas an ostrich (because of its atypical features) would not be. **Prototype Semantics** holds that word meaning is best analyzed in terms of such prototypes, category membership being gradient and not absolute. See also **referent 1; stereotype 2.**

proxemics The study of variations in posture, inter-personal distance, and tactile contact in human communication.

PRT In syntax, an abbreviation sometimes used for **particle.**

PS The abbreviation for **phrase structure.**

pseudo-cleft sentence A construction that resembles a cleft sentence, in that a single clause has been divided into two separate sections, each with its own verb, but with the difference that the two sections can be analyzed as having a relationship of main clause to subordinate clause, as when *He committed a crime* becomes *What he committed was a crime,* or an **inverted pseudo-cleft,** as in *A crime is what he committed.* See also **cleft sentence.**

pseudo-narrative See **narrative.**

PSG The abbreviation for **phrase-structure grammar.**

psycholinguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the correlation between linguistic behavior and the mental processes and skills thought to underlie that behavior; earlier called **psychology of language.** The study of the acquisition of language by children is often distinguished as **developmental psycholinguistics.** When the emphasis is on the use of language as a means of elucidating psychological theories and processes, the term **psychological linguistics** is sometimes used. See also **acquisition; speech perception; speech production; realistic grammar.**

psychological subject See **topic.**

pulmonic Characteristic of any activity associated with the lungs, especially in the context of speech sound production. See also **airstream; cavity; egressive.**

pulmonic airstream A flow of air from the lungs under relatively constant pressure, used for speech production. The normal direction of the airflow is egressive, but pulmonic **ingressive** sounds may also be heard. See also **airstream; egressive; speech production.**

punctual See **durative.**

pure vowel A vowel sound with no perceived change in quality during a syllable, as in the vowels of English *sit* or *set;* also known as a monophthong. This contrasts with a **gliding vowel** or **diphthong.** See also **monophthong.**

purism A school of thought that sees a language as needing preservation from the external processes that might infiltrate it and thus make it change. See also **prescriptivism.**

push chain See **chain 3.**

pushdown automata See **automata.**

Q An abbreviation for **question** and **quantifier.**

qualification A type of structural dependence of one grammatical unit upon another; for example, in traditional grammar, dependent items in a noun phrase are said to **qualify** the noun. In Systemic Grammar, the term is used more narrowly for structures following the head of the noun phrase; contrasts with modification, for structures preceding the head. See also **head; modification 1; noun; Systemic Grammar.**

quality 1 In auditory phonetics, the characteristic resonance or timbre of a sound, resulting from the range of frequencies constituting the sound's identity; generally contrasts with **quantity** or length. See also **length; timbre; voice quality 2.** 2 See **Maxims of Conversation.**

quantifier An item that expresses a notion of quantity (e.g. *all, some, both*). The logical distinction between **universal quantification** ('For all X, it is the case that . . .') and **existential quantification** ('For some X, it is the case that . . .') is relevant in semantics. In transformational grammar, the rule of **quantifier-floating** has been used to handle the mobile properties of quantifiers in sentences (e.g. *All the people arrived* vs. *The people all arrived*). In **Government and Binding Theory, quantifier raising** is a process that applies in the mapping from S-structure to Logical Form, moving a quantified noun phrase into clause-initial position.

quantitative linguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the frequency and distribution of linguistic units using statistical techniques; it aims to establish general principles concerning the statistical regularities governing the structure of language, as well as to elucidate linguistic problems (such as authorship identity). See also **corpus.**

quantity See **length; Maxims of Conversation.**

question (Q) A major type of sentence, typically used to elicit information or a response, and defined variously on grammatical, phonological, semantic, or sociolinguistic grounds; contrasts with statement, command, and exclamation. Questions may be marked by a **question word,** such as **WH-questions** in English (*what, where,* etc.); also called **special questions.** Other types include **yes-no** or **general questions** (e.g. *Did he phone?*), **disjunctive questions** (e.g. *Did he phone or did he write?*), and **tag questions** (e.g. *He phoned, didn't he?*). See also **command; exclamation; interrogative; statement; tag 1.**

R In Binding Theory, an abbreviation for **referring,** in the phrase **R-expression;** in Metrical Phonology, an abbreviation for root in a metrical tree.

radical In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of sounds made using the root of the tongue. See also **root 2.**

raising In some models of transformational grammar, a type of rule where a constituent is assigned a higher position in a **phrase-marker.** In **object raising,** the subject of a complement clause becomes the object of the higher clause (e.g.

He believes John to be honest analyzed as *He believes John + to be honest*). In **subject raising,** the subject of a complement clause becomes the subject of the higher clause (e.g. *The man seems angry* from *It seems that the man is angry*). Other items may also be raised, as in **negative raising** and **quantifier raising.** See also **control theory; movement; right node raising.**

rank In Systemic Grammar, the hierarchical arrangement of linguistic units within a level; for example, the grammatical **rank scale** recognizes sentence, clause, group, word, and morpheme in a relationship of inclusion. **Rank-shift** refers to a process where a given unit is shifted down the rank scale, so that it operates within the structure of a lower unit (e.g. a clause operating within a group, as in relative clauses). See also **hierarchy; Systemic Grammar.**

rate See **tempo.**

readjustment rule In generative grammar, a type of rule that makes a modification in surface structure, effecting individual changes in the shapes of certain formatives in the context of other formatives, thus helping to relate the syntactic component to the phonological component. See also **formative; generative grammar; surface structure.**

realistic grammar An approach to grammatical analysis that aims to be psychologically real, contributing to the explanation of such areas of linguistic behavior as comprehension and memory. The aim is to **realize** a transformational grammar within a psychological model of language use, so that the model genuinely represents users' linguistic knowledge. Explicit **realizations** map grammatical rules and categories onto processing operations and informational units. See also **grammar 1; psycholinguistics.**

realization The physical expression of an abstract linguistic unit, as when phonemes are **realized** in phonic substance as phones; also called **actualization** or **manifestation,** or subsumed under **exponence** or **representation.** See also **phoneme; underlying.**

realization grammar A model of grammar that derives all sentences from their corresponding semantic representation. See also **grammar 1; representation.**

reanalysis In generative grammar, an operation that changes the structure of a sentence without reordering the terminal string; also called **restructuring.** The process enables a sequence of syntactic categories to be taken together as a single unit (e.g. changing *take + account + of* to *take account of*).

reassociation See **association.**

Received Pronunciation (RP) The regionally neutral, educationally prestigious accent in British English. When this accent displays features of regional influence, it is known as **modified RP.** See also **accent 1.**

receptor language See **source 1.**

recipient In some grammatical analyses of sentences, the animate being passively implicated by the happening or state expressed by the verb. This is typically the role of the indirect object (e.g. *you* in *I gave you the book*), but other elements may act as recipient; also called **patient, dative,** or **affected.** The term is sometimes used in a more general sense to include the role of the direct object. See also **case; object.**

reciprocal Descriptive of a grammatical feature expressing the meaning of mutual relationship, as encountered in **reciprocal pronouns** (e.g. *each other*) and **reciprocal verbs** (e.g. *meet*).

reciprocal assimilation See **assimilation.**

reconstruction **1** A method in historical linguistics whereby a hypothetical system of sounds or forms, representing an earlier, non-extant state of a language, is established from an analysis of the attested sounds and forms of extant texts. This is called **internal reconstruction,** if evidence from only one language is used, and **comparative reconstruction,** if evidence from a number of related languages is used. See also **diachronic linguistics.** **2** In **Government and Binding Theory,** a process that occurs in the mapping from S-structure to Logical Form, moving certain constituents back to their **D-structure** positions. See also **Logical Form; S-structure.**

recoverable Characteristic of a **deleted** element that is capable of being retrieved by taking the linguistic context into account. In generative grammar, the term refers to a condition that governs the application of deletion rules, specifying that only elements which do not have semantic content can be deleted. See also **deletion; ellipsis.**

recursive Characteristic of rules that are capable of repeated application in generating a sentence, of the structures thus generated, and of the languages characterized by such rules; also sometimes called **iterative.** The term has also been used to define an extension of Transition Network Grammars, namely **Recursive Transition Networks (RTNs).** See also **rule; Transition Network Grammar.**

reduction **1** In phonology, a process whereby a vowel becomes less prominent and more centralized; for example, the stressed vowels in *telegraph* become **reduced** in the related word *telegraphy*. **2** A process of simplification that affects certain types of sound sequence; for example, **consonant cluster reduction** is found in early child language (e.g. /kl-/ becoming /g-/). **3** See **ellipsis.**

redundant Descriptive of a feature whose presence is unnecessary in order to identify a linguistic unit or make a linguistic contrast; e.g., *The boy sits* displays **redundancy,** in that both subject and verb are marked for singularity. In generative grammar, **redundancy rules** simplify the form of descriptions, dealing with features that can be predicted on the basis of other features. See also **contrast.**

reduplication In morphology, a type of repetition whereby the form of a prefix/suffix reflects certain phonological characteristics of the root (e.g. Greek /lú:o:/ 'I loose',

/léluka/ 'I have loosed'). In English, compound words such as *helter-skelter* are called **reduplicative compounds.**

reference grammar See **grammar 1.**

referent 1 The entity in the external world to which a linguistic expression refers, called its **referential meaning;** for example, the referent of the word *table* is the object 'table'. The extralinguistic notion of **reference** contrasts with the intralinguistic notion of sense, a property arising from the meaning relations between lexical items and sentences. See also **meaning; sense.** 2 In grammatical analysis, **reference** is a relationship of identity that exists between grammatical units, as when a pronoun **refers** to a noun phrase. When the reference is to an earlier part of the discourse, it may be called **back-reference;** reference to a later part of the discourse is **forward-reference.** In Government and Binding Theory, a **referential expression,** usually abbreviated to R-expression, is a term used as part of the classification of noun phrases. **Arbitrary reference** describes the reference of the understood subject represented by PRO. See also **anaphora; Binding Theory; coreference; *pro*; R-expression.**

referential indices See **coreference.**

referring expression See **R-expression.**

reflectiveness See **reflexiveness.**

reflexive Characteristic of a construction where the subject and the object refer to the same entity, as in *She washed herself.* In transformational grammar, **reflexivization** is a rule that introduces the **reflexive pronouns** (e.g. *myself*) into a sentence. In Government and Binding Theory, reflexives are a class of noun phrases. See also **anaphor; pronoun.**

reflexiveness A suggested defining property of human language, whereby it can be used to talk about itself; also called **reflectiveness** or **reflexivity.** See also **metalinguistic.**

register 1 In phonetics, the voice quality produced by a particular physiological constitution of the larynx (e.g. soprano, tenor, falsetto); also, the types of phonation that a speaker can use in a controlled manner (e.g. creaky voice). See also **phonation; voice quality.** 2 In stylistics and sociolinguistics, a variety of language defined according to its use in social situations (e.g. scientific or formal). See also **field of discourse; formality; manner of discourse; mode of discourse; stylistics.**

register-lowering See **downdrift.**

regressive assimilation See **assimilation.**

regular Characteristic of a linguistic form when it is in conformity with the general rules of a language; for example, the use of *-s* in noun plurals in English. See also **analogy.**

regular grammar See **linear grammar.**

Relational Grammar A model of grammar which takes as central the notion of grammatical relations, e.g. **subject** and **object,** rather than the categorial terms of standard phrase-markers (e.g. NP, VP). A **relational network** is a formal representation of a sentence, showing the grammatical relations that elements of the sentence bear to each other, and the syntactic level(s) at which these relations hold. See also **accessibility hierarchy; arc; chômeur; demotion; representation.**

relative Characteristic of pronouns (e.g. *who, which, that*) used to introduce a postmodifying clause within a noun phrase, and of the clause itself, called a **relative clause.** *When* and *where* are sometimes called **relative adverbs** when linking a relative clause to its noun. Types of relative clause include **adnominal** (e.g. *The case that I cited . . .*), **nominal** (e.g. *What interests me is . . .*), **sentential** (e.g. *The house is for sale, which is absurd*), and **zero** or **contact** (e.g. . . . *the book I read*). **Restrictive** or **defining** relative clauses (where the identity of the head is dependent upon the clause) are contrasted with **non-restrictive** or **non-defining** (where the identity of the head is independent of the clause); for example, *The Bible which I own . . .* vs. *The Bible, which I often read, . . .* In transformational grammar, the process of forming a relative clause is called **relativization.** See also **clause; postmodification; pronoun; restrictiveness.**

relative universal See **universal.**

relativity See **linguistic relativity.**

release The type of movement made by the vocal organs away from a point of articulation, particularly in the case of plosives. See also **abrupt release; affricate; plosive.**

relevance See **distinctiveness.**

Relevance Theory A theory of communication and cognition which claims that human cognition is geared to the maximizing of relevance. All communicative acts are thought to carry a guarantee of optimal relevance (i.e. they have enough contextual effects and require no unnecessary processing effort), and are interpreted in the light of this guarantee. See also **Maxims of Conversation.**

Relexification Hypothesis A hypothesis that the range of pidgin languages is derived from the first widely-used pidgin, based on Portuguese, by a process whereby the grammar of this language was retained but new lexical items were introduced from the other European languages. See also **pidgin.**

relic area See **areal linguistics.**

remote structure See **deep structure.**

reordering See **movement; order.**

repair In Conversation Analysis, the attempt made by participants to make good a real or imagined deficiency in the interaction, such as a mishearing or misunderstanding. A **self-initiated repair** is made by a speaker without prompting from the listener; this is contrasted with an **other-initiated repair,** which is prompted by the listener. Repairs may also be classified as **self-repairs** (made by the speakers them-

selves) and **other-repairs** (made by listeners). See also **Conversation Analysis.**

repertoire The range of languages or language varieties available for use by a speaker, each of which enables the speaker to perform a particular social role; sometimes called a **repertory.** The term is also used collectively for the range of linguistic varieties within a speech community.

replacive A type of **morph** postulated to account for such problematic alternations as *man/men,* stated as *a* → *e,* etc. See also **morpheme.**

reportability See **evaluation.**

reported speech See **direct speech.**

representamen See **iconic relationship.**

representation The relationship of correspondence existing between the successive levels of analysis recognized in generating a sentence. The data of language are **represented** as a configuration of elements at a given level (e.g. a semantic/syntactic/phonological representation). See also **generative grammar; level 2; realization.**

representative In Speech Act Theory, a type of utterance where speakers convey their belief about the truth of a proposition (e.g. *I believe/hypothesize/claim*). See also **speech act.**

resonance Vibrations of air movement in the vocal tract that are set in motion by a source of phonation. The main **resonance chambers** are the mouth, nose, and pharynx. See also **phonation; voicing.**

resonant Characteristic of a sound made with a relatively wide articulatory channel, so that no audible friction is produced (e.g. vowels, nasals); equivalent to sonorant in Phonological Feature Theory, and contrasted with obstruent. See also **obstruent; sonorant.**

REST The abbreviation for **Revised Extended Standard Theory.**

restricted language A reduced linguistic system used for a special communicative purpose, such as the language of air-traffic control. See also **register 2; variety.**

restrictiveness The semantic relationship of a modifying structure to its accompanying head word. In **restrictive** or **defining modification,** the linguistic identity of the head is dependent upon the accompanying modification; if the modification is inessential to the head's identity, the term **non-restrictive** or **non-defining** is used. For example, in *I've got a black car,* emphasis on *black* implies that the blackness is crucial to the identity of the car (thus restrictive); with no emphasis on *black,* a non-restrictive interpretation is more likely. See also **modification; relative.**

restructuring See **reanalysis.**

result A clause or clause element whose meaning expresses the notion of consequence or outcome; also called **resultative, resulting,** or **resultant;** for example, clauses introduced by *so that.* In later Case Grammar, the term replaced **factitive** for an object or being which results from an action or state. See also **Case Grammar.**

resumptive Characteristic of an element or structure that repeats, or in some way recapitulates, the meaning of a prior element, for example a **resumptive pronoun** (e.g. *John, I know him*) or a **resumptive relative clause** (e.g. *She bought a paper—a paper that had all the answers*).

retracted Characteristic of the backward movement of an articulator, especially the back of the tongue towards the **velum,** as heard in velarization. See also **velar.**

retroflex Characteristic of a consonant sound made by the tongue tip against the back of the alveolar ridge; **retroflexed** forms of *t, d,* and *r* are common. Vowels preceding a retroflexed consonant are said to be **r-colored** or rhotacized. See also **rhotacized vowel.**

reversal In Metrical Phonology, the switching of weak and strong **nodes** encountered in such phrases as *thirteen men;* also known as **Iambic Reversal,** the **Rhythm Rule,** or (after the canonical example) the **Thirteen Men Rule.** See also **Metrical Phonology; node.**

Revised Extended Standard Theory (REST) The revised version of Extended Standard Theory, proposed by Noam Chomsky in the mid-1970s, following the adoption of the Trace Convention on the application of movement rules. See also **Extended Standard Theory; Logical Form; movement; S-structure; trace; X-bar Theory.**

rewrite rule In generative grammar, a type of rule that takes the form X → Y; also called a **rewriting rule.** The symbol to the left of the arrow represents a single structural element; the symbol to the right represents a string of one or more elements; and the arrow is an instruction to replace X by Y. See also **phrase-structure grammar.**

R-expression An abbreviation for **referring expression,** a category in the three-way classification of noun phrases in Binding Theory. According to Principle C of this theory, R-expressions must be free. See also **anaphor; Binding Theory; pronominal.**

rheme In Functional Sentence Perspective, the part of a sentence that adds most to the advancing process of communication, expressing the largest amount of meaning in addition to what has already been communicated; contrasts with **theme,** which carries the lowest degree of communicative dynamism. See also **communicative dynamism; Functional Sentence Perspective.**

rhetoric See **contrastive rhetoric.**

rhotacized vowel A vowel which has been given an [r]-coloring, as in the common US pronunciation of *bird.* The tongue is elevated in the palatal region and retracted in the lower pharyngeal region, causing the third formant frequency to be lowered. See also **retroflex.**

rhotic Descriptive of a dialect or accent where /r/ is pronounced following a vowel, in such words as *car* and *cart.* Varieties that do not have this feature are **non-rhotic.**

rhyme See **syllable.**

rhythm The perceived regularity of prominent units in speech, stated in terms of such patterns as stressed vs. unstressed

syllables, or long vs. short syllables. See also **isochrony; metrics; prosody; stress.**

Rhythm Rule See **reversal.**

right branching See **left branching.**

right dislocation See **left dislocation.**

right-linear grammar See **linear grammar.**

right node raising A type of coordinate construction recognized in generative grammar (e.g. *John likes, and Bill hates, writing letters*); also called **shared constituent coordination.** See also **coordination; ellipsis; raising.**

rim The edges of the tongue, the extent of whose contact with the roof of the mouth can affect the quality of several sounds (e.g. [s]).

rime See **syllable.**

rising See **falling; monophthong.**

ritual language A variety of language used in prescribed consecrated forms of behavior, governed by a belief in mystical powers.

roll See **trill.**

root **1** The base form of a word that cannot be further analyzed without loss of the word's identity; alternatively, that part of the word left when all affixes are removed. Roots may be **free** morphemes (e.g. *go, hat*) or **bound** morphemes (e.g. *-ceive* in *receive, conceive,* etc). A **root-inflected** language is one where the inflections affect the internal phonological structure of the root (e.g. Arabic); this contrasts with a **root-isolating** language, where the root morphemes are invariable (e.g. Chinese). See also **affixation; morpheme; stem; typology.** **2** In phonetics, the furthest back part of the tongue, opposite the pharyngeal wall. **3** In generative grammar, the topmost node in a tree diagram; in **Metrical Phonology,** the topmost node in a metrical tree. In transformational grammar, a **root transformation** is one that applies only to full sentence structure, not to embedded sentences. See also **embedding; transformation.** **4** In historical linguistics, the earliest form of a word. See also **etymology.**

rounding The use of lip protrusion for the articulation of vowels and sometimes of consonants. **Rounded** vowels include [u] and [o]; they are opposed to **unrounded** or **spread** vowels, such as [i] and [e]. In Phonological Feature Theory, rounded sounds are recognized as a type of cavity feature. See also **cavity feature; Phonological Feature Theory.**

RP The abbreviation for **Received Pronunciation.**

RTN The abbreviation for **Recursive Transition Network Grammar.**

rule A formal statement of relationship between linguistic elements or structures; by contrast with the traditional use of the term (a recommendation for correct usage), no prescriptive or proscriptive implication is present. A **generative rule** is predictive, expressing a hypothesis about the relationships between sentences which hold for a language as a whole, and reflect the speaker's **competence.** Rules may be classified in terms of the components of the grammar in which they appear, e.g. **phonological rules** or **syntactic rules.** A **phrase-structure rule** is of the form 'X → Y'; a **transformational rule** is of the form 'A ⇒B', where A and B are strings of structural elements. In later generative grammar, a **rule schema** is a means of specifying a set of rules without having to list them individually. In **Government and Binding Theory,** there has been a shift away from the notion of rule to that of **Principles and Parameters.**

rule feature In the **Standard Theory** of generative grammar, a type of feature contained in a lexical entry, providing information about whether a lexical item is exceptional with reference to the applicability of a non-lexical transformation (e.g. passivization). See also **contextual feature; inherent feature; lexicon.**

rule ordering See **order.**

Rule-to-Rule Hypothesis The view that each syntactic rule in a grammar is associated with a semantic rule that determines the meaning of the constituent whose form is specified by the syntactic rule. See also **Montague Grammar.**

S An abbreviation for **sentence, subject,** or **shallow** (in the context of **S-structure**). $\bar{S}$ (S-bar) or S′ is an abbreviation in generative grammar for a clause introduced by a subordinating conjunction or complementizer.

SAAD An abbreviation for a **simple active affirmative declarative** sentence.

sandhi The phonological modification of grammatical forms that have been juxtaposed. A distinction is sometimes made between **external sandhi,** which operates across word boundaries, and **internal sandhi,** which operates within words. See also **morphophonemics.**

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis See **linguistic relativity.**

satellite In Functional Grammar, an element that turns a nuclear predication into a full predication, specifying further properties of the nuclear state of affairs expressed in the sentence (e.g. manner, location). See also **Functional Grammar; predicate.**

SC In generative grammar, an abbreviation for **structural change;** in Government and Binding Theory, an abbreviation for **small clause.**

Scale and Category Grammar A linguistic theory developed by Michael Halliday in the early 1960s, in which the structure of language is seen as an intersecting set of **scales** (rank, exponence, delicacy) and **categories** (unit, structure, class, system) operating at different levels. See also **class 2; delicacy; exponence; rank; structure; system; Systemic Grammar.**

schwa See **shwa.**

scope The stretch of language affected by the meaning of a particular form; for example, the **scope of negation** in English normally extends from the negative word to the end of the clause. Sentences in which ambiguity derives from alternative scope interpretations are **scope ambiguities.**

script 1 The graphic form of the units of a writing system (e.g. the Roman vs. the Cyrillic alphabet). 2 In the study of narrative discourse, an encoding of stereotypical relations between events (e.g. the sequence of events during a visit to a restaurant); the matching of events in a text with events in a **script** allows inferences to be made about information not explicitly mentioned in the text. In this context, a plan is a hierarchical decomposition of actions into sub-actions. See also **discourse; frame; narrative; plan.**

SD An abbreviation in generative grammar for **structural description.**

secondary aperture In Phonological Feature Theory, a type of cavity feature that subsumes nasal and lateral contrasts. See also **cavity feature; lateral; nasal.**

secondary articulation A vowel-like articulation which occurs concurrently with a **primary** consonantal articulation. Cases include **palatalization** (adding a high front tongue position), **velarization** (raising the back of the tongue), **pharyngealization** (narrowing the pharynx), and **labialization** (adding lip rounding). See also **articulation; palate; pharyngeal; rounding; velar.**

secondary vowel See **cardinal vowels.**

segment A minimal discrete unit in the sound system of a language, defined physically or auditorily, and generally classified as a vowel or consonant; an analogous use is found in the study of writing systems. The term has developed an abstract sense in generative phonology, referring to a mental unit of phonological organization. **Segmental phonology** analyzes speech into contrastive units—traditionally, **segmental phonemes;** this contrasts with **supra-segmental, non-segmental,** or **plurisegmental phonology,** where speech is analyzed into features that extend over more than one segment (e.g. intonation, vowel harmony). See also **consonant; phoneme; phonology; vowel.**

selectional feature In generative grammar, a syntactic feature that specifies restrictions on the permitted combinations of lexical items within a given grammatical context; also called a **selectional restriction** or **selectional rule.** For example, a verb that requires an animate subject noun phrase (e.g. *sleep*) would have the restriction stated as part of its feature specification. See also **collocation; contextual feature; subcategorization.**

self-embedding A construction whose derivation includes a structural operation of the form $X \rightarrow Y\ (+\ X)\ +\ Z$; also known as **center-embedding,** and illustrated by the use of relative clauses. See also **embedding; relative.**

self-repair See **repair.**

semantic differential A technique devised by psychologists to find out the emotional reactions of speakers to lexical items, and thus to suggest the main affective dimensions in terms of which a language's concepts are organized. See also **affect; connotation.**

Semantic Feature Hypothesis (SFH) In child language acquisition, a hypothesis which claims that the order of appearance of a child's lexical items is governed by the type and complexity of the semantic features they contain. See also **acquisition.**

semantic field See **field theory.**

semanticity The ability of a semiotic system to convey meaning, by virtue of the associative ties which relate the system's signals to features of the external world. See also **meaning; semiotics.**

semantic paraphasia In the study of anomia and related disorders, a type of incorrect response related in meaning or category to the desired name, such as *soldier* for *policeman* or *siren* for *ambulance;* also known as **verbal paraphasia.** See also **anomia; phonological paraphasia.**

semantics The study of meaning in language. **Structural semantics** applies the principles of structural linguistics to the study of meaning through the notion of **semantic relations,** also called **sense** or **meaning relations,** such as **synonymy** and **antonymy.** In generative grammar, the **semantic component** is a major area of the grammar's organization, assigning a **semantic representation** to sentences, and analyzing lexical items in terms of **semantic features.** The theory of **semantic fields** views vocabulary as organized into areas within which words interrelate and define each other. See also **General Semantics; meaning; Model-Theoretic Semantics; procedural semantics; Situation Semantics; Truth-Conditional Semantics.**

semantic triangle A particular model of meaning proposed by C. K. Ogden and I. A. Richards in the 1920s, which claims that meaning is essentially a threefold relationship among linguistic forms, concepts, and referents. See also **meaning; referent 1.**

semasiology See **onomasiology; semiotics.**

seme A minimal distinctive semantic feature, operating within a specific semantic field, e.g. a defining property of a chair, such as 'having legs' or 'having a back'. This contrasts with **classeme,** which is a feature of a much more general kind (e.g. 'male', 'animate').

semeiology See **semiotics.**

semeiotics See **semiotics.**

semelfactive See **iterative 1.**

sememe A minimal unit of meaning, interpreted variously as equivalent to the meaning of a morpheme, or as a semantic feature. In Stratificational Grammar, the **sememic stratum** handles the systems of semantic relationship between lexical items. **Semotactics,** in this approach, involves the study of the sequential arrangement of sememes. See also **meaning; Stratificational Grammar.**

semi-active See **active 2.**

semi-auxiliary See **auxiliary verb.**

semiconsonant See **consonant.**

semiology See **semiotics.**

semiotics, also **semeiotics** The study of signs and their use, focusing on the mechanisms and patterns of human communication and on the nature and acquisition of knowledge.

This field is also known as **semiology** or **semeiology,** but the two terms have different intellectual histories. 'Semiology' relates primarily to a continental European tradition deriving from Ferdinand de Saussure; 'semiotics', primarily to an Anglo-American tradition deriving from Charles S. Peirce. Language is viewed in semiotics as one type of sign system, along with such other systems as bodily gestures, clothing, and the arts. Other terms for the field include **semasiology** and **significs.** See also **sign 1.**

semi-productive See **productivity.**

semi-sentence A sentence whose grammaticality is doubtful, but where there is sufficient plausibility of interpretation to disallow a definite judgment of ungrammaticality. See also **acceptability; grammaticality.**

semivowel A sound functioning as a consonant at the margins of a syllable, but lacking the phonetic characteristics normally associated with consonants (such as audible friction); instead, its quality is phonetically that of a vowel, though of shorter duration; examples include [w] and [j]. Often used as equivalent to **semiconsonant.** See also **approximant.**

semology A major component of Stratificational Grammar, dealing with the statement of meanings both in terms of semantic features and in terms of referential meaning. See also **Stratificational Grammar.**

semotactics See **sememe.**

sense See **meaning; referent 1.**

sentence (S) The largest structural unit in terms of which the grammar of a language is organized; an independent unit that is given both a formal and a functional classification (though with varying terminology). Formal classifications recognize such types as declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamative; functional classifications recognize such types as statement, question, and command. Most analyses recognize a classification into **simple** vs. **complex** and **compound sentence** types, in terms of the number and kind of subject-predicate constructions they contain. Another widespread distinction is into **favorite** or **major sentences,** which are productive sentence patterns in a language, and **minor sentences,** which lack productivity. See also **clause; statement; utterance.**

sentential relative clause See **relative.**

sequence The observable succession of units in an utterance or text, involving both linear relationships (where the dependencies are between successive, adjacent units) and non-linear relationships, such as agreement between words that are separated. **Sequence of tenses** refers to the dependencies between tense forms in successive clauses. In psycholinguistics, **sequencing** refers to the influence that successive structures exercise upon each other; in language teaching, this term refers to the order in which a graded series of items is presented to the learner. See also **linearity; order.**

serial relationship See **gradience.**

serial verb construction A construction in which two verb phrases are juxtaposed (sometimes verbs alone), with the precise relationship between them generally left unmarked.

series In phonetics and phonology, a set of consonant sounds that has at least one phonetic feature in common, and is distinguished in terms of place of articulation (such as the voiced plosive series [b], [d], [g]). See also **place of articulation.**

set expression A group of words standing in a fixed association; also called a **bound, fixed,** or **frozen expression.** Examples include fixed collocations (e.g. *run amok*), idioms, catch phrases, proverbs, aphorisms, and other stereotyped forms. See also **formula.**

setting A global configuration of the vocal organs which underlies the articulatory or phonatory performance of a speaker. **Articulatory settings** are reflected in tendencies to habitual articulatory postures, such as marked lip rounding or low tongue-body position. **Phonatory settings** include the habitual use of a whispery or creaky mode of phonation. See also **articulation; phonation; vocal organs; voice quality 2.**

SFH The abbreviation for **Semantic Feature Hypothesis.**

shadow pronoun See **resumptive pronoun.**

shallow structure In the Revised Extended Standard Theory, a level of representation distinguished from surface structure principally in the way it is followed within the grammar by certain types of formal operation other than phonological rules (such as filters); in Government and Binding Theory, developed as **S-structure.** See also **Revised Extended Standard Theory; S-structure; surface structure.**

shared constituent coordination See **right node raising.**

sharp See **plain 2.**

shwa The neutral vowel, [ə], heard in English at the beginning of such words as *amazing;* also spelled **schwa.**

sibilant A fricative sound made with a narrow, groove-like stricture in the blade of the tongue, approaching the back part of the alveolar ridge (e.g. [s]). See also **fricative; groove.**

sight translation See **translation.**

sigma (Σ, σ) A symbol often used for the initial element in a generative grammar, corresponding to **sentence;** also, in Metrical Phonology, the symbol (in upper case) for a stress foot, or (in lower case) for a syllable.

sign **1** A term used by Ferdinand de Saussure to summarize the dyadic, arbitrary relationship which exists between a vehicle—a **signifier,** French *signifiant*—and a meaning: a **signified,** French *signifié*. The relationship itself is known as **signification.** In the tradition associated with C. S. Peirce, the sign is seen as triadic, involving the relationship among a vehicle or **representamen,** an object, and an interpretant. See also **arbitrariness; iconic relationship; indexical relationship; semantics; semiotics; symbolic relationship.** **2** See **sign language.**

significant See **contrast; distinctiveness.**

signification See **sign.**

significs See **semiotics.**

signified/signifier See **sign.**

sign language A system of gestures, made with the hands and other body parts, used to replace speech as a mode of communication on all occasions of interaction. Sign languages which are used within deaf communities, or which permit communication to develop naturally between deaf people and hearing people (as in home sign systems), are sometimes referred to as **primary sign languages.** These are distinguished from the **alternate sign languages** used among hearing people (such as certain religious orders). A further distinction is often drawn between these naturally-occurring sign languages and **contrived sign languages**—the sign systems invented by educators to convey spoken language to the deaf.

simple form See **progressive.**

simultaneous translation See **translation.**

single-bar In X-bar Theory, a small phrasal category, distinguished from a full phrasal or **double-bar** category. See **bar; X-bar Theory.**

single-base transformation See **double-base transformation.**

singulary transformation See **double-base transformation.**

sister-adjunction See **adjunction.**

sister-dependency See **daughter dependency grammar.**

situation See **context 2.**

situational switching See **code-switching.**

Situation Semantics An approach to semantics in which sentences are analyzed as denoting not truth values but situations—sets of facts that consist of a location, a relation, and a truth value—in specific contexts. See also **Model-Theoretic Semantics.**

skeletal tier In Autosegmental Phonology, the **tier** where units are represented as consonants and vowels within syllable structure; also known as the **CV tier.** See also **Autosegmental Phonology; tier.**

slack See **stiff.**

slash In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, an element (symbolized as '/') which is used in the analysis of unbounded dependency constructions to indicate what category is missing. See also **Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar.**

slit See **groove.**

slot See **filler.**

small clause (SC) In **Government and Binding Theory,** a clause which contains neither a finite verb nor an infinitival *to,* such as *leave* in *I saw her leave.*

social competence See **competence.**

social dialect See **class dialect.**

social dialectology The application of dialectological methods to the study of social structure, especially the relationship between linguistic features and such factors as class, sex, age, profession, and ethnicity. The emphasis is on group membership as a determinant of dialectal competence.

sociohistorical linguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the forms and uses of language in society, and how particular linguistic functions and types of variation develop over time within specific languages, speech communities, social groups, and individuals. See also **diachronic linguistics.**

sociolect A linguistic variety defined on social (as opposed to regional) grounds, such as a social class or occupational group. See also **lect.**

sociolinguistics A branch of linguistics which studies the ways in which language is integrated with human society (specifically, with reference to such notions as race, ethnicity, class, sex, and social institutions); often distinguished from the **sociology of language,** which tends to operate from the viewpoint of sociology, and (especially in Europe) from **sociological linguistics,** which aims to see language as an integral part of sociological theory. See also **dialect; Interactional Sociolinguistics; lect.**

sociolinguistic variable See **variable 2.**

sociopragmatics See **pragmalinguistics.**

sonorant In Phonological Feature Theory, a sound produced with a relatively free airflow, and a vocal fold position such that spontaneous voicing is possible (as in vowels, liquids, nasals, and laterals); also called **resonant.** This contrasts with obstruent, where there is a stricture impeding the airflow (as in plosives, fricatives, and affricates). See also **major class feature; obstruent; Phonological Feature Theory.**

sonority The overall loudness of a sound, relative to others of the same pitch, stress, and duration; sounds are said to have an **inherent sonority,** which accounts for the impression of a sound carrying further. A **sonority scale** or **sonority hierarchy** is used in Autosegmental Phonology and specifically in Metrical Phonology; the most sonorous elements are assigned the highest value, and the least sonorous the lowest value. The center of a syllable is defined as the place where sonority is greatest, i.e. the **sonority peak.** See also **Autosegmental Phonology; Metrical Phonology; prominence; stress.**

sortality A property of a word that necessarily applies to an entity throughout its existence; for example, *dog* is **sortal,** but *young* is not.

sound change A change in the phonological system of a language over a period of time. A **sound shift** is a series of related sound changes at a particular stage of a language's history (e.g. the English Great Vowel Shift). In comparative philology, a regular change is called a **sound law.** See also **diachronic linguistics; Neogrammarian Hypothesis.**

sound spectrogram A visual display of the sounds of speech, showing the relative amplitude of the component frequencies of each sound; produced by a **sound spectrograph.** See also **acoustic phonetics.**

sound symbolism A direct association between the form and meaning of language, as when phonetic sounds reflect sounds in the external world—**onomatopoeia,** as in *cuckoo, murmur, splash*—or other properties, such as size or light: this is **phonesthetics,** as in *glitter, slimy, swerve.* See also **correspondence theory; iconic relationship; phonesthetics; synesthesia.**

sound system The network of phonetically realized contrasts that constitute the phonological inventory of a language or dialect. See also **phonology.**

source 1 In translating and interpreting, the language from which a message originates, called the **source language;** contrasts with the **target** or **receptor language,** into which the translation takes place. See also **translatology.** 2 In a localistic theory of meaning, the point of origin of an entity, as it moves along a path to a goal; in Case Grammar, the place from which something moves. See also **Case Grammar; goal; localism; path.**

source feature A major dimension of classification in Phonological Feature Theory, subsuming the feature oppositions of heightened subglottal pressure, voice, and strident. See also **heightened subglottal pressure; Phonological Feature Theory; strident; voicing.**

speaker recognition A branch of phonetics which investigates the way individuals can be identified or discriminated by analysis of their voices. In **speaker verification,** a sample of a speaker's speech is used to check a claimed identity. See also **speech recognition; voiceprint.**

specialization A suggested defining property of human language, referring to the extent to which the use of a signal and the behavior it evokes are directly linked. Language is highly specialized, since the behavioral consequences of using a linguistic signal are often unpredictable.

specifier A category in the X-bar Theory of phrase structure, normally combining with a **single-bar** category to form the related **double-bar** category (e.g. in *She is a doctor,* the word *a* is the specifier of the noun *doctor*). See also **X-bar Theory.**

spectrograph An instrument that provides a visual representation of the acoustic features that constitute the sounds of speech, using a three-dimensional record called a **spectrogram,** in which time is displayed horizontally, frequency vertically, and intensity by the relative blackness of the marks. See also **instrumental phonetics.**

speech act A communicative activity or **locutionary act** defined with reference to the intentions of a speaker while speaking—the **illocutionary force** of the utterance—and the effects achieved on a listener: the **perlocutionary effect** of the utterance. Examples include directives (e.g. commanding), commissives (e.g. promising), and expressives (e.g. apologizing). See also **felicity conditions; illocutionary act; indirect speech act; performative; perlocutionary act.**

speech chain See **chain 1.**

speech community A regionally or socially definable human group, identified by the use of a shared spoken language or language variety.

speech event A communicative exchange made meaningful by culturally-specific structures of participants, genres, codes, and other elements. Usage in a language is organized through the higher-level patterning of speech events. See also **ethnography of speaking.**

speech exchange system In Conversation Analysis, a specific mode of organizing spoken interaction, in which various parameters of **turn-taking** are constrained, e.g. number of participants, order and content of turns. In interviews, for example, turn types (questions and answers) are preallocated to specified categories of participants (interviewer, interviewee). See also **Conversation Analysis; turn.**

speech perception The listener's extraction of discrete phonetic and linguistic units from the continuous acoustic signal of speech; also, the study of the processes and mechanisms governing this ability. See also **acoustic invariance; analysis-by-synthesis; categorical perception; motor theory.**

speech play See **verbal play.**

speech production The activity of the respiratory, phonatory, and articulatory systems during speech, along with the associated neural programming required for their coordination and use. See also **articulation; phonation.**

speech recognition A branch of phonetics which uses research in acoustic phonetics and speech perception to develop a computer system that will respond to a wide range of forms of spoken input; also called **automatic speech recognition (ASR).** See also **speaker recognition.**

speech synthesis The process of generating artificial signals of speech, using a model of its linguistically salient acoustic or articulatory properties. **Acoustic domain analogs** or **terminal analogs** replicate the acoustic properties of the vocal tract in terms of its output; **articulatory analogs** replicate the anatomical geometry of the tract between the larynx and the lips. See also **Linear Prediction Coefficient synthesis; text-to-speech system.**

spirant See **fricative.**

split See **convergence 2.**

spoonerism A slip of the tongue that involves the exchange of (usually initial) sounds to produce an unintentionally humorous or embarrassing result, e.g. *dear old queen* becoming *queer old dean.*

Sprachbund See **areal linguistics.**

Sprachgefühl See **intuition.**

spread See **constricted; rounding.**

squish In non-discrete grammar, a continuum along which lexical items can be placed, the poles being verb and noun; lexical items are seen as displaying degrees of verbness and nounness, and syntactic rules are seen as applying with varying productivity to different parts of the continuum. See also **fuzziness; non-discrete grammar.**

S-structure In **Government and Binding Theory,** an alternative conception to **surface** or **shallow** structure, enriched

by the inclusion of empty elements such as **trace** and **PRO**, which relate to D-structure. S-structure is produced after transformations and case rules, but before deletion rules and filters. See also **D-structure; surface structure.**

standard A prestige variety of language used within a speech community, providing an institutionalized norm for such purposes as the media and language teaching. Linguistic forms or dialects that do not conform to this norm are often called **substandard** or (more usually, within linguistics) **nonstandard. Standardization** is the natural development of a standard language in a speech community, or an attempt by a community to impose one dialect as a standard. See also **accent 1; dialect; language planning.**

Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) The basis of a scheme currently being developed in literary and linguistic computing for putting texts into machine-readable form, using a single encoding system. The scheme avoids the need for researchers to write special programs to convert texts from one encoding format into another.

Standard Theory The model of generative grammar proposed by Noam Chomsky in *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* (1965), viewed at the time by many as the leading statement concerning the aims and form of a transformational grammar. See also **Extended Standard Theory.**

starred form See also **asterisked form.**

state **1** A condition of a language at a point or period of time, constituting the subject matter of synchronic linguistics (*état de langue*). See also **synchronic linguistics.** **2** See **dynamic verb.** **3** See **network.**

statement A major sentence function, declarative (or indicative) in form, in English typically containing a subject before a verb, and used primarily to convey information (e.g. *The door is open*); usually contrasted with question, command, and exclamation. See also **command; exclamation; question.**

static tone See **dynamic tone.**

static verb See **dynamic verb.**

statistical linguistics A branch of linguistics that studies the application of probabilistic techniques in linguistic theory and description; for example, the analysis of frequency and distribution of linguistic units in texts, and the relationship between word types and tokens. See also **quantitative linguistics.**

stative verb See **dynamic verb.**

status planning See **language planning.**

stem The element of word structure to which inflectional affixes are attached; it may consist solely of a root morpheme (a simple stem, e.g. *girl*), or of two root morphemes (a compound stem, e.g. *blackbird*), or of a root morpheme plus a derivational affix (a complex stem, e.g. *manli* + *ness*). See also **inflection 1; morpheme; root 1; word.**

stereotype **1** In grammar, a sequence of words that resembles a productive grammatical structure, but which in fact has been learned as a single unit and has little or productivity; examples include proverbs, quotations, a risms, and many idioms. See also **idiom; productivity** In semantics, the set of characteristics that describe a totype; for example, a stereotyped feature of cars is they have four wheels. The theory of **stereotype semar** holds that word meaning includes a stereotype of the ob designated by the word. See also **prototype.**

stiff In Phonological Feature Theory, descriptive of a of the vocal folds; opposed to **slack.** See also **laryn activity; vocal folds.**

stop A type of consonant involving a complete closur the oral tract at some point, such as [p], [t], and [g Phonological Feature Theory, sometimes used in oppos to **continuant. Ingressive** stops are often referred t **suction stops, egressive** stops as **pressure stops.** See **continuant; manner of articulation; plosive.**

stranded Characteristic of an element that is left unatta after it has been moved out of a construction, or after rest of the construction has been moved; for exampl preposition is commonly left stranded after the noun ph within the prepositional phrase has been moved, as in *Th the man you gave it to*. See also **movement.**

Stratificational Grammar A linguistic theory devised Sydney M. Lamb in the 1960s, which models languag a system of several related layers or **strata** of structure. component of **phonology** comprises the **hypophon** (or phonetic) and the **phonemic** strata; **grammar** comp the **morphemic** and **lexemic** strata; and **semology** c prises the **sememic** and **hypersememic** (or sema strata.

strength scale In phonology, a universal scale of value which segments (or classes of segments) can be arrayed example, velars are claimed to be weaker than den which are weaker than labials.

stress The relative perceived prominence of a unit of sp language. A **stressed** syllable is usually produced b increase in articulatory force, increased rate of airflow, greater muscular tension in the articulators. It is prim characterized phonetically by greater intensity than is fo in adjacent **unstressed** syllables, but higher pitch and lo duration are also typically involved. Several degree stress can be recognized, most commonly **primary, sec ary,** and **weak stress.** A sequence of syllables constitu a rhythm unit, containing one primary stress, is a **s group. Sentence stress** or **contrastive stress** is the us stress to express a contrast of meaning in a sentence. M pairs of words and word sequences can also be distingui using **lexical stress** or **word stress.** A language where stresses fall at roughly regular intervals within an utter is a **stress-timed language.** See also **accent 2; isochr loudness; syllable.**

stress contour See **contour; stress.**

stress-foot See **foot.**

stress-timed language See **isochrony.**

Strict Cycle Condition See **cycle.**

stricture An articulation that restricts the airstream to some degree, ranging from a complete closure to a slight narrowing. See also **airstream.**

stricture type In Phonological Feature Theory, a major class of phonological features, which includes such features as **continuant, strident,** and **lateral.** See also **Phonological Feature Theory.**

strident In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of a stricture type in which a constriction formed by the edge of an articulator produces a turbulent airstream; contrasts with **non-strident.** See also **continuant; sibilant; source feature; stricture type.**

string A linear sequence of elements of determinate length and constitution: in formal analysis, this is permitted to consist of just one element or of no element—the **empty** or **null string.** A **substring** is any part of a string which is itself a string.

strong adequacy See **adequacy.**

strong form One of two possible pronunciations of a word (typically, a grammatical word) in connected speech, which results from the word being stressed; contrasts with a **weak form,** where the word is unstressed (e.g. *and* vs. *'n'*).

strong equivalence See **equivalence.**

structural Descriptive of any approach to the analysis of language that pays explicit attention to the way in which linguistic features can be described in terms of patterned organization. **Structuralism** in a narrow sense refers to the emphasis on the processes of segmenting and classifying utterances promoted by Leonard Bloomfield, and to the school of thought that emerged, called **structural** or **structuralist linguistics.** More generally, the term is used for the theory that any human institution or behavior (e.g. religion, dancing) can be analyzed in terms of an underlying network of relationships, with the structural patterns related to basic modes of thought. See also **structure.**

structural ambiguity A construction with more than one grammatical interpretation in terms of constituent analysis (e.g. [*old men*] *and women* vs. *old* [*men and women*]); also sometimes called **constructional homonymity.** See also **ambiguity; constituent.**

structural Case See **case.**

structural change (SC) In transformational grammar, the operations involved in applying a transformational rule—that is, the changes that take place between the input and the output **phrase-markers.**

structural description (SD) In transformational grammar, an analysis of a terminal string in terms of a labeled bracketing, identifying the input to a transformational rule. See also **bracketing; string.**

structural dialectology See **dialect.**

structure A network of interrelated units, the significance of the parts being specifiable only with reference to the whole; more narrowly, an isolable section of this network, such as a particular grammatical area (e.g. the structure of the pronoun system); more narrowly still, a sequential pattern of linguistic elements at a given level (e.g. phonological structure, clause structure). See also **structural; structure dependency; system.**

structure dependency In generative grammar, the principle that the speaker's knowledge of language relies on the structural relationships between elements in the sentence rather than on the linear sequence of items. See also **generative grammar.**

structure preservation In Lexical Phonology, the principle that constraints on possible underlying segments in the inventory of a language, and constraints on autosegmental associations, hold throughout the derivation during the lexical part of the phonology. See also **Autosegmental Phonology; derivation 2; Lexical Phonology.**

stylistics The study of any situationally distinctive use of language, and of the choices made by individuals and social groups in their use of language. Alternatively, the study of the esthetic use of language, in all linguistic domains; sometimes called **applied stylistics,** especially when there is an emphasis on the use of style in literary and non-literary texts. In its literary applications, the subject brings together the insights and methods of linguistics and literary criticism; in this context, it is often called **literary linguistics** or **linguistic criticism.** A contrast is often drawn between **literary stylistics,** the study of the linguistic characteristics of literature as a genre and of the style of authors, and **general stylistics,** the study of the whole range of non-dialectal varieties of a language. The quantification of stylistic patterns is the province of **stylostatistics** or **stylometry.** The study of the expressive or esthetic function of sound is sometimes called **phonostylistics.**

stylometry See **stylistics.**

stylostatistics See **stylistics.**

subcategorization The subclassification of a syntactic category; especially, the specification of the syntactic characteristics of the arguments of a lexical item. In the **Standard Theory** of generative grammar, **strict subcategorization features** specify a class of restrictions operating on the choice of verbs and other elements in deep structure. A **subcategorization frame** specifies the range of sister constituents that a lexical item takes. See also **category feature; frame; selectional feature.**

subcomponent See **component 1.**

subgesture See **gesture.**

subjacency In **Government and Binding Theory,** a type of condition that restricts the application of a transformational rule; this is the main principle of **Bounding Theory.** The **Subjacency Condition** states that a constituent cannot be

moved (in any single application) across more than one bounding node. See also **Bounding Theory.**

subject (S) A major element of sentence or clause structure, traditionally associated with the 'doer' of an action: e.g. *The dog chased the cat,* where *the dog* is the **grammatical subject.** A distinction is often drawn between the grammatical and the **logical** or **underlying subject** (e.g. *the dog* in *The cat was chased by the dog*). In generative grammar, the subject can be defined as the NP immediately dominated by S. In languages that make inflectional distinctions between subject and object, the case of the subject is often called the **subjective,** contrasting with **objective.** A **subjective genitive** occurs when the underlying structure of the genitive construction is that of subject + verb (e.g. *the playing of the footballers* = 'footballers play'), contrasting with the **objective genitive,** where the underlying structure is verb + object (e.g. *the building of the castle* = 'build the castle'). See also **clause; object; topic.**

subjective genitive See **subject.**

subjunct A subclass of **adverbials** that have a subordinate role in comparison with other clause elements; they include expressions of viewpoint, courtesy, and emphasis (e.g. *frankly, actually, please*). See also **adjunct; disjunct.**

subjunctive A grammatical feature typically found in verb forms, sentences, or clauses, occurring in subordinate clauses to express such attitudes as tentativeness, vagueness, and uncertainty. The term is used in English linguistics in relation to such constructions as *if he were going,* formulae such as *So be it,* and clauses introduced by *that* (especially in American English), such as *I insist that he leave.*

submorpheme A part of a morpheme that has recurrent form and meaning, such as the *gl-* of *glitter, glow, glare,* etc. See also **morpheme; phonesthetics.**

subordinating conjunction See **conjunction.**

subordination The process or result of linking linguistic units so that they have different syntactic status, one being dependent upon the other, and usually a constituent of the other; **subordinate** is sometimes contrasted with **superordinate.** A **subordinate** or **dependent clause** is illustrated by the *when*-clause in *John left when the bus arrived;* the marker of linkage is *when,* a **subordinator** or **subordinating conjunction.** See also **coordination.**

substance The undifferentiated raw material out of which language is constructed—the sound waves of speech or **phonic substance,** and the marks of writing or **graphic substance.** This contrasts with **form,** the abstract pattern of relationships imposed on this substance by a language. See also **form 1.**

substandard See **standard.**

substantive In some descriptive grammars, the class which includes nouns and noun-like items (e.g. *the rich*); sometimes includes pronouns. See also **noun.**

substantive universal See **universal.**

substitution The process or result of replacing one item by another at a particular place in a structure. In grammar, the structural context in which this replacement occurs is a **substitution frame** (e.g. *The — is outside*), and the set of items that can be used at a given place is a **substitution class.** In language teaching, exercises to improve the ability of learners to carry out this process of replacement are **substitution drills.** A word that refers back to a previously occurring element of structure may be called a **substitute word.** In **Government and Binding Theory,** substitution is one of the two main types of movement process. See also **adjunction; frame; movement.**

substitution transformation In generative grammar, a class of movement transformations which replace one constituent by another without effecting any change in the structure produced by the **phrase-structure** rules; contrasted with **adjunction.** An example is **raising to subject,** where an identity element in the matrix subject position is replaced by a noun phrase from the embedded sentence. See also **adjunction; transformation.**

substrate or **substratum** A linguistic variety or set of forms that has influenced the structure or use of a socially dominant variety or language within a community (e.g. the influence of Celtic on the Latin of ancient Gaul); also called a **substrate language** or a **linguistic substrate.** It contrasts with a **superstratum,** where the influence is in the other direction (such as the influence of Norman French on Old English). See also **language contact; variety.**

substring See **string.**

subtree See **tree.**

suction In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of a type of supplementary movement involving the use of the glottis or velum to direct the airstream inward, as in implosives and clicks. See also **click; implosive; Phonological Feature Theory; pressure; stop; supplementary movement.**

suffix See **affixation.**

superfix A vocal effect that extends over more than one sound segment in an utterance (e.g. pitch, loudness), particularly when seen in the context of a specific grammatical structure; also called a **suprafix.**

superfoot In Metrical Phonology, a node that dominates the two rightmost feet in a metrical tree. See also **foot; Metrical Phonology.**

superlative See **degree.**

superordinate Descriptive of a linguistic unit higher in a hierarchy than another, **subordinate** unit; for example, in *I know where she went,* the clause *I know* (or *I know X*) is the **superordinate clause.** See also **clause; hierarchy; subordination.**

superstratum See **substrate.**

supplementary movement In Phonological Feature Theory, a type of sound feature set up to handle variations in manner

of articulation using the glottalic and velaric airstreams; classified into suction (ingressive) and pressure (egressive) types. See also **airstream; Phonological Feature Theory; pressure; suction.**

suppletion In morphology, a relationship between forms which cannot be accounted for by a general rule, because the forms involved have different roots, e.g. *go* and *went*. See also **morpheme; root 1.**

suprafix See **superfix.**

supraglottal Characteristic of the entire area of the vocal tract above the glottis. See also **glottis; vocal tract.**

supralaryngeal system See **vocal organs.**

suprasegmental phonology See **phonology; segment.**

surface structure In transformational grammar, the final stage in the syntactic representation of a sentence, which provides the input to the phonological component of the grammar; contrasts with **deep structure,** and is later distinguished from **S-structure.** The term **surface grammar** is sometimes used informally for the superficial properties of a sentence. See also **deep structure; representation; S-structure.**

surface-structure constraint See **filter.**

svarabhakti vowel See **anaptyxis.**

switch reference A grammatical process operating in a clause, indicating whether its subject is the same as the subject of an adjacent clause. See also **clause.**

syllable The minimal unit of sequential speech sounds, usually consisting of an obligatory **nucleus** (typically, a vowel) with optional initial and final **margins** (typically, consonants). Structural classifications also recognize a division between an initial **onset** and a following **rhyme** or **rime,** with the latter further subdivided into a **peak** followed by a **coda.** Onset corresponds to initial margin, peak to nucleus, and coda to final margin. A syllable comprising a sequence of (consonant +) vowel is an **open syllable;** one consisting of (consonant +) vowel + consonant is a **closed** or **checked syllable.** The division of a word into syllables is **syllabification.** A segment constituting a syllable nucleus is often called **syllabic.** See also **consonant; isochrony; vowel.**

syllable-timed language See **isochrony.**

symbolic relationship A relationship between a sign vehicle or **representamen** and its object, proposed by C. S. Peirce, where the connection is neither physically similar nor contiguous, but depends on a rule, as with most of a language's lexical items. See also **iconic relationship; indexical relationship; semiotics; sign 1.**

synaesthesia See **phonesthetics.**

synchronic linguistics See **diachronic linguistics.**

syncope The deletion of a vowel within a word (e.g. *secretary* as [sékritri]; often contrasted with apheresis and apocope. The term is sometimes also used for internal consonant deletion. See also **apheresis; apocope; deletion.**

syncretism The merging of forms following the loss of inflections; more generally, identity between two forms of the same lexical item (e.g. *jumped* as past tense and past participle). See also **convergence 2.**

synesthesia See **phonesthetics.**

synonymy The relationship of sameness of meaning between lexical items; items are **synonyms** if they are close enough in meaning to allow a choice to be made between them in some contexts, without this affecting the meaning of the sentence as a whole (e.g. *a nice range/selection/choice of flowers*). See also **antonymy; hyponymy; incompatibility.**

syntactic blend See **blending.**

syntactic frame See **frame.**

syntagm A string of related constituents, usually in linear order; also called a **syntagma.** The sequential relationships between the constituents at a given level of analysis are called **syntagmatic relations,** contrasting with **paradigmatic relations.** See also **linearity; paradigm.**

syntax The study of the rules governing the way words are combined to form sentences; contrasts with morphology, the study of word structure. More generally, the study of the interrelationships among all elements of sentence structure (including morphemes), and of the rules governing the arrangement of sentences in sequences. In generative linguistics, the **syntactic component** contains rules for the generation of **syntactic structures.** These structures are analyzable into sequences of **syntactic categories** or **syntactic classes,** established on the basis of the syntactic relationships that linguistic items have with each other. Categories may be analyzed as sets of **syntactic features** to permit a greater degree of generalization across categories; the result is **feature-based syntax.** The study of the field as a whole is **syntactic theory.** See also **morphology; generative grammar; sentence.**

synthetic language See **analytic language.**

system A network of patterned relationships constituting the organization of language, and divisible into a hierarchically-ordered arrangement of subsystems (finite sets of formally or semantically connected units), such as the tense system, the pronoun system, and the vowel system. A system with a determinate number of members is a **closed system;** i.e., new members are not normally created. See also **hierarchy; structure.**

system architecture A computing term used in computational linguistics, referring to the set of superordinate principles which define the operations of a language processing system. System architectures specify the components of such a system, the structural relations between the components, and the flow of control from one to another component during processing. See also **computational linguistics; linear processing; Natural Language Processing.**

systematic phonemics A level of representation in generative phonology which sets up a single underlying form capable of accounting in a regular way for the phonological

variations that relate grammatical structures (e.g. *divine, divinity*). The units in these representations are called **systematic phonemes,** as opposed to the autonomous phonemes of traditional phonemic phonology, established without reference to grammatical structure. See also **phoneme; representation; systematic phonetics.**

systematic phonetics A level of representation in generative phonology which provides a narrow phonetic transcription of the systematic features of pronunciation (i.e. excluding those attributable to performance factors). See also **performance; representation; systematic phonemics.**

Systemic Grammar A grammatical theory developed by M. A. K. Halliday from Scale and Category Grammar, in which the notion of paradigmatic relationship or **system** is made the central explanatory principle. Grammar is concerned to establish a network of systems of relationships which will account for all the semantically relevant choices in the language. See also **Scale and Category Grammar; system.**

t The abbreviation for **trace.**

T The abbreviation for **transformation,** in such phrases as **T-rules.** See also **T/V forms.**

tacit knowledge See **competence; intuition.**

tactics See **taxis.**

tag 1 A structure used in **tag questions,** typically consisting of an auxiliary verb plus a pronoun, attached to the end of a statement in order to convey a negative or positive orientation (e.g. *He's outside, isn't he?*). Some grammarians also recognize **tag statements** (e.g. *That was nice, that was*). See also **polarity; question.** 2 A grammatical label attached to a word in a computer corpus to indicate its class; the procedure is known as **tagging.** See also **corpus; word class.**

Tagmemics A system of linguistic analysis developed by Kenneth Pike, in which language is seen as comprising three modes—phonology, lexicon, and grammar. The relationship of phonology to **phoneme** and lexicon to **morpheme** is paralleled by that of grammar to **tagmeme;** this is a functional slot within a construction frame, and a class of substitutable items that can fill this slot. **Tagmemic analysis** involves a distinction betwen essential units, the tagmemes, and non-essential units: **tagmas,** analyzed as **allotagmas** of tagmemes. The constructions which result from the stringing together of tagmemes are **syntagmemes.** See also **frame; slot.**

tamber or **tambre** See **timbre.**

tap See **flap.**

target 1 See **source 1.** 2 A hypothetical articulatory state, called a **target articulation,** used as a reference point when describing speech production in dynamic terms. An analogous construct in speech perception is the **auditory target,** proposed to explain the ability of the listener to identify the common factors in different accents and voices. See also **articulation; speech perception; speech production.**

target language A language or variety that is the goal of a linguistic operation; for example, the language into which one is translating, or which is being taught to foreigners.

taxeme A single minimal feature of grammatical arrangement, such as concord or word order; combinations of taxemes are **tactic forms.** See also **taxis.**

taxis The systematic arrangements of units in linear sequence at any linguistic level; also called **tactics,** usually used as part of a compound expression (e.g. **phonotactics,** dealing with the sequential arrangements of sounds; **morphotactics,** dealing with morphemes; **syntactics,** dealing with higher grammatical units). See also **linearity; phonotactics; taxeme.**

taxonomic linguistics An approach to linguistics that is predominantly or exclusively concerned with procedures of segmentation and classification; in the history of ideas in linguistics, contrasts with **generative linguistics,** which stresses the role of underlying structure in linguistic analysis. See also **generative grammar.**

telic verb A verb expressing an event where the activity has a clear terminal point (e.g. *kick*); contrasts with an **atelic verb,** where the event has no such natural end point (e.g. *play*). See also **aspect.**

template 1 In automatic speech recognition, a stored, labeled spectrum (or the key features of a spectrum) against which an analysis of the signal to be recognized is matched. See also **speech recognition.** 2 In Metrical Phonology, an abstract tree structure that defines the basic structural possibilities of syllables in a language. See also **Metrical Phonology; syllable; tree.**

tempo The speed of speech; also called **rate.** Contrasts in tempo are analyzed in suprasegmental phonology along with pitch and loudness variation, as part of the study of rhythm. See also **rhythm.**

tenor of discourse See **manner of discourse.**

tense 1 The grammatical expression of the time of a situation described in a proposition, relative to some other time; traditionally classified into present, past, future, etc. **Tense forms** are strictly defined as variations in the morphological form of the verb (e.g. *I jump* vs. *I jumped*), but some analyses recognize the use of auxiliary verbs under this heading (e.g. *I have jumped*). See also **aspect.** 2 See **tension.**

tensed clause In generative grammar, a clause containing a verb that expresses a tense contrast. See also **finite; tense 1.**

tension The over-all muscular effort used in producing a sound, usually classified into **tense** vs. **lax,** or **fortis** vs. **lenis.** In phonological feature theory, a **tense** sound is one produced with a relatively strong muscular effort, involving a greater movement of the supraglottal vocal tract away from the position of rest, and a relatively strong spread of acoustic energy (e.g. a high front or high back vowel); contrasts with **lax** or **non-tense,** where the sound is produced with less muscular effort and movement, and which is

relatively short and indistinct (e.g. a centralized vowel). See also **fortis.**

terminal In generative linguistics, descriptive of certain characteristics of the output of the syntactic component of the grammar. A **terminal element** or **terminal symbol** is a unit employed in the syntactic representation of a sentence, after all the rules have been applied; contrasts with a **non-terminal** element, used in the formulation of rules. A string consisting of terminal elements is a **terminal string.** See also **generative grammar; node; string.**

terminal analog See **speech synthesis.**

terminal node See **node.**

text A piece of naturally occurring spoken, written, or signed discourse identified for purposes of analysis or description; often established as a language unit with a definable communicative function (e.g. a conversation, a poster, a road sign). The study of the defining properties of texts—what constitutes their **textuality** or **texture**—is carried on by **text linguistics. Text** is also defined in several restricted ways, for example as a purely surface-structural notion; or as an abstract, underlying property of language, often contrasted with discourse. See also **conversation analysis; corpus; discourse.**

text retrieval The process of searching a linguistic database for an individual item of text (such as a word, a phrase, or a dictionary entry), using indexes especially constructed for the purpose. See also **computational linguistics.**

text-to-speech system A system of speech synthesis designed to transform conventional orthographic representations of language into their spoken form. Its applications include information technology and aids for the disabled, such as reading machines for the blind. See also **speech synthesis.**

textual competence See **competence.**

T forms See **T/V forms.**

TG The abbreviation for **transformational grammar.**

***that*-clause** A clause which is introduced by the English conjunction *that,* or in which *that* is possible, such as *I said (that) it was ready.*

theme In **Functional Sentence Perspective,** the first major constituent of a sentence, an important element in the sentence's **thematic structure.** The process of moving an element to the front of the sentence to act as theme is **thematization** or **thematic fronting.** The term refers to the part of a sentence that has the lowest degree of communicative dynamism. In **Government and Binding Theory,** each argument of a predicate is said to bear a particular **thematic role** or theta role in relation to its predicate, this being defined with reference to a restricted universal set of **thematic functions** or **thematic relations.** See also **fronting; rheme; theta role; topic; Universal Alignment Hypothesis.**

theta role In Government and Binding Theory, a semantic role such as agent, patient, locative, source, and goal; also called a **thematic role.** The main principle of **Theta Theory** is the **Theta Criterion,** which requires that every argument is assigned just one theta role, and that every theta role is assigned to just one argument. See also **case; Government and Binding Theory; theme.**

Thirteen Men Rule See **reversal.**

threshold In second-language learning (especially in the European context), a specified minimum standard of achievement, based on a specified language-teaching load.

tier In Autosegmental Phonology, a level of phonological representation. Two or more parallel tiers of phonological segments are proposed, each tier consisting of a string of segments, and representing a sequence of articulatory gestures or acoustic transitions. See also **Autosegmental Phonology; phonemic tier; skeletal tier; X-tier.**

timbre (also **tamber** or **tambre**) The attribute of auditory sensation in terms of which a listener can judge the dissimilarity between sounds of otherwise identical pitch, loudness, and length; also called **quality,** in such contexts as vowel description. See also **attribute 2; quality 1; voice quality 2.**

timing Temporal constraints on the articulation and sequencing of sounds in speech production; involved, for example, in the programming of phonotactic sequences or the coordination of musculature. See also **phonotactics; rhythm; speech production.**

timing tier See **X-tier.**

tip The end point of the tongue, used in the articulation of a few speech sounds, such as trilled [r]; also called the **apex.**

***to*-infinitive** See also **infinitive.**

tone The linguistic functioning of pitch at word level. In a **tone language,** pitch as **lexical tone** is one of the features which determine the lexical meaning of a word. Tones are usually classified into high vs. low, and rising vs. falling vs. level, with more complex sequences (such as rising-falling) often recognized. In the study of intonation, **nuclear tone** is the most prominent pitch in an intonation unit, called a **tone unit** or **tone group.** The study of the phonetic properties of tone is sometimes called **tonetics;** in the emic tradition of study, contrastive tones are classified as **tonemes,** the province of **tonemics.** The general study of the forms and uses of tone in language is **tonology.** See also **dynamic tone; intonation; pitch.**

tongue The organ of articulation most involved in speech sounds—all the vowels and most of the consonants. Many articulations are classified with reference to the part of the tongue involved: from front to back, the **tip** or **apex, blade** or **front,** the **center** or **top,** the **back** or **dorsum,** and the **root.**

tongue-body feature In Phonological Feature Theory, a cavity feature in which the placement of the body of the tongue is characterized with reference to three features, all seen as oppositions: high, low, and back. See also **cavity feature.**

tonicity The placement of maximal prominence in an intonation unit, called the **tonic syllable,** usually as the result of pitch change. See also **intonation; tone.**

topic The entity (person, animal, thing, etc.) about which something is said; sometimes called the **psychological subject** of a sentence; contrasts with **comment,** the further statement made about this entity. **Topicalization** is the movement of a constituent to the front of a sentence to function as topic. In the traditional study of paragraph structure, the **topic sentence** is the sentence that introduces the paragraph's theme. See also **left dislocation; theme.**

toponymy See **onomastics.**

total accountability A principle of structural linguistic analysis, presented with reference to the relationship between phonology and morphology, whereby everything that is stated at one level of description is predictable from the other. See also **morpheme; phoneme; structural.**

***tough*-movement** In classical transformational grammar, a rule that involves moving a noun phrase out of the predicate of a complement sentence, *tough* being one of a class of adjectives which were the focus of discussion (as in *Latin is tough to study*). See also **extraposition.**

trace (t) In transformational grammar, a formal means of marking the place that a constituent once held in a derivation, before it was moved to another position by a transformational operation. In Government and Binding Theory, a distinction is made between traces of noun phrases moved by NP-movement, called **NP-traces,** and traces of categories moved by WH-movement, i.e. **WH-traces.** See also **Empty Category Principle.**

traditional grammar The set of attitudes, procedures, and prescriptions characteristic of the prelinguistic era of language study, and especially of the European school grammars of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. See also **prescriptivism; purism.**

transcription A method of writing down speech sounds in a systematic and consistent way; also called a **notation, script,** or **transcript.** In a **phonetic transcription,** sounds are symbolized on the basis of their articulatory/auditory identity, regardless of their function in a language; this is sometimes called an **impressionistic transcription.** In a **phonemic transription,** the only units to be symbolized are those which have a linguistic function. In an **allophonic transcription,** functional phonetic details are added to the phonemic transcription. A phonetic transcription that is relatively detailed is a **narrow transcription;** one less detailed is a **broad transcription.** See also **allo-; diacritic; phone; phoneme; phonetics; phonology.**

transfer The influence of linguistic features of one language upon another, in such contexts as bilingualism and language learning; also called **transference.** See also **contrastive analysis; interference.**

transformation (T) A formal linguistic operation that enables two levels of structural representation to be placed in correspondence. A **transformational rule** (T-rule or transform) consists of a sequence of symbols which is rewritten as another sequence, according to certain conventions. The sequence of transformed phrase-markers assigned to a sentence constitutes its **transformational derivation.** A grammar that makes use of these notions is a **transformational grammar;** this term is also applied to the theoretical approach. In recent years, transformational grammars are contrasted with **non-transformational grammars,** such as Relational Grammar and Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar. See also **adjunction; base structure; double-base transformation; deep structure; generative grammar; obligatory transformation; phrase-marker.**

transformational cycle See **cycle.**

transition 1 In phonology, the way adjacent sounds are linked; **close transitions** involve an articulatory continuity between successive sounds; **open transitions** involve a break in this continuity. See also **glide; liaison.** 2 In acoustic phonetics, the acoustic change that takes place as the vocal organs move to and from the articulatory positions of consonants, especially plosives; these **transitional features** or **transients** can be seen on a spectrogram. See also **acoustic phonetics; formant; spectrograph.**

Transition Network Grammar A type of network grammar that shows possible surface structure patterns using diagrammatic models; when supplemented by features that enable it to handle such matters as agreement and order displacement, it is called an **Augmented Transition Network** or **ATN Grammar.** See also **network.**

transitivity A category used in the grammatical analysis of clause/sentence constructions to define the types of relationship between a verb and the presence or absence of object elements. With **transitive constructions,** the verb takes a direct object (e.g. *I saw the book*); with **intransitive** constructions, it does not (e.g. **I arrived the town*). Verbs which take two objects are sometimes called **ditransitive.** Verbs that are marginal to one or the other of these categories are **pseudo-intransitive** (e.g. *The eggs are selling well*). Some grammars also apply the notion to prepositions: **transitive prepositions** require an accompanying noun phrase, **intransitive prepositions** do not.

translatology The study of translation, subsuming both **interpretation** of oral discourse and **translation,** in a narrow sense, of written discourse. The process of transferring an oral message from one language to another at the moment of utterance is variously known as **simultaneous interpretation** or **simultaneous translation.** The oral transference of a written message from one language to another is **sight translation.**

transparent See **opaque.**

tree 1 In generative grammar, a two-dimensional branching diagram used as a means of displaying the internal hierar-

chical structure of sentences as generated by a set of rules; also called a **tree diagram.** The internal relationships of **nodes** within the tree are described using 'family tree' terminology (mother, daughter, sister). A subsection of a tree diagram, isolated for purposes of discussion, is referred to as a **subtree.** In Generalized Phrase-Structure Grammar, a **local tree** is a tree of depth one, in which every node other than the root is a daughter of the root. In Procedural Grammar, a **structure tree** or **parse tree** is the result of applying the analytical procedures to a text. A parsed corpus is sometimes referred to as a **treebank.** See also **generative grammar; phrase-marker.** 2 In **Metrical Phonology,** a **metrical tree.**

tree-only phonology See **grid-only phonology.**

triangle A notational device used in generative grammar as part of a phrase-marker to represent a constituent with a complex internal structure, the details of which are not relevant for the point under discussion. See also **phrase-marker.**

trill A type of consonant in which there is a rapid vibration at the point of contact between the articulators, as in uvular [R]; also called a **trilled** or **rolled** consonant.

triphthong See **monophthong.**

Truth-Conditional Semantics An approach to semantics which maintains that meaning can be defined in terms of the conditions in the real world under which a sentence may be used to make a true statement.

turn In Conversation Analysis, a single contribution of a participant in a conversation, preceded and followed by speech from other participants; also called a **conversational turn.** In this framework, **turn-taking** is seen as a coordinated and rule-governed aspect of conversational interaction. See also **adjacency pair; Conversation Analysis.**

T/V forms Alternative pronoun forms expressing different kinds of orientation to the addressee. The T forms (so-called from French *tu*) are typically singular, and typically mark familiarity; the V forms (from French *vous*) are plural, and mark politeness. Other languages contrast 2nd and 3rd person pronouns in a similar way, e.g. Spanish *tu* (familiar), *Usted* (polite). A mutual use of T encodes intimacy and social closeness; a mutual use of V encodes respect and social distance. Asymmetrical usage identifies a power or status imbalance. See also **address, forms of.**

typology A branch of linguistics that studies the structural similarities between languages, regardless of their history. Such **typological comparison** is part of an attempt to establish a satisfactory classification; also called **typological linguistics.** See also **agglutinative language; fusional language; incorporating language; isolating language.**

UC The abbreviation for **ultimate constituent.**

ultimate constituent See **constituent.**

unaccented syllable See **accent 2.**

unacceptable sentence See **acceptability.**

unaccusative Characteristic of an intransitive verb whose subject originates as an object (e.g. *The vase broke*); also sometimes called an **ergative verb.**

unanalyzable See **analyzability.**

unary feature See **binary feature.**

unassociated feature See **association.**

unbounded dependency A construction in which a syntactic relation holds between two constituents such that there is no restriction on the structural distance between them. See also **movement; slash.**

unchecked See **checked.**

uncountable noun See **countability.**

underextension See **overextension.**

underlying Characteristic of an abstract level of representation, postulated to explain the patterns encountered in the empirical data of a language. The notion of **underlying forms** is central to **generative grammar,** where a stage of **underlying structure** is recognized in the derivation of a sentence. See also **deep structure; D-structure.**

underspecification In Lexical Phonology, the principle that only the contrastive features of the language are to be specified by the lexical phonological rules, and none of the redundant features; also the principle that unmarked feature specification is to be eliminated from underlying forms, leaving only the marked values. See also **Lexical Phonology; marking.**

ungradable See **gradability.**

ungraded antonymy See **antonymy.**

ungrammaticality See **grammaticality.**

unification An operation in several grammatical theories, called **unification-based approaches,** whereby two categories can be combined as long as they do not contain conflicting information. See also **grammar 1.**

Uniformitarian Principle A guideline for the reconstruction of proto-languages: the linguistic forces which operate today are not unlike those which have operated in the past.

unilateral See **lateral.**

unit In Systemic Grammar, the stretch of language that carries grammatical patterns, and within which grammatical choices are made (e.g. sentence, clause). See also **class 2; structure; system; Systemic Grammar.**

universal A property claimed to be characteristic of all languages, or a defining property of language; also called a **language universal. Universal grammar** aims to specify the possible forms of a human grammar, especially the restrictions on the form such grammars can take. **Statistical universals** are constants of a statistical kind, such as a ratio of use between different structures. **Implicational universals** are generalized statements of the form 'If X occurs in a language, then Y will (not) occur in a language.' **Absolute universals** are properties that all languages share, without exception. **Relative universals** are general tendencies in language, with principled exceptions. In generative linguis-

tics, **formal universals** are the necessary conditions that have to be imposed on the construction of grammars in order for them to be able to operate (e.g. types of rules, number of components). **Substantive universals** are the primitive elements in a grammar, required for the analysis of linguistic data (e.g. NP, VP), and classified into phonological, syntactic, and other types. The **Universal Base Hypothesis** states that all languages can be generated by using the same set of basic rules. See also **generative grammar; Innateness Hypothesis.**

Universal Alignment Hypothesis The hypothesis that there is an exact correlation between underlying grammatical relations (e.g. 'subject of', 'object of') and thematic relations (semantic notions such as 'agent' and 'patient'); also called the **Uniformity of Theta Assignment Hypothesis.** See also **case; theta role.**

Universal Base Hypothesis See **base component; universal.**

universal quantifier See **quantifier.**

unmarked See **markedness.**

unproductive See **productivity.**

unrounded See **rounding.**

untensed clause See **tensed clause.**

unvoiced See **voicing.**

usage The collective speech and writing habits of a community, seen especially within the perspective of individuals' preferences for alternative linguistic forms. See also **corpus; prescriptivism.**

utterance A stretch of speech typically preceded or followed by silence or by a change of speaker, or about which no assumptions have been made in terms of linguistic theory.

uvular Characteristic of a consonant sound made by the back of the tongue with the back of the soft palate or **uvula,** such as the first sound widely used in French *rose*.

V The abbreviation for **verb.** See also **T/V forms.**

valency The number and type of bonds that syntactic elements may form with each other. A **valency grammar** presents a model of a sentence containing a fundamental element (typically, the verb) and a number of dependent elements or **valents** (also called arguments, expressions, or complements) whose number and type is determined by the valency attributed to the verb. A **monovalent** verb has a valency of 1 (e.g. *vanish* can take only a subject); a **bivalent** verb of 2 (e.g. *scrutinize*); a **trivalent** verb of 3 (e.g. *give*); a **zero valency** (or **avalent**) verb takes no complements at all (e.g. *rain*). Verbs which differ in these ways belong to different **valency sets.** Cases in case grammar are sometimes referred to as **valency roles.** See also **argument; case; complement; theta role.**

value The functional identity of an entity when seen in the context of a rule-governed system; also referred to by the French term *valeur*. See also **structure; system.**

variable 1 A quantity that may assume any of a set of values; for example, a **category variable** (e.g. X) stands for any major word-level category (e.g. N, P, ADJ). In **X-bar Syntax,** a **bar variable** stands for any level of bar projection of X. See also **Binding Theory; X-bar Theory.** 2 In sociolinguistics, a linguistic unit subject to social or stylistic variation, with reference to such factors as region, social class, age, and sex; also called a **sociolinguistic variable.** The results of this variation are stated in the form of **variable rules**—generative rules modified so as to specify the socio-regional conditions under which they apply.

variable word See **invariable word.**

variant A linguistic form which is one of a set of alternatives in a given context; also called a **variant form.** The choice of variants may be subject to contextual constraints or **conditioned variants;** or the lack of statable conditions may imply **free variants.** See also **allo-.**

variety Any system of linguistic expression whose use is governed by situational variables, such as regional, occupational, or social class factors. The term is sometimes used more narrowly, referring to a single kind of situationally distinctive language. See also **dialect; diglossia; lect.**

velar Characteristic of a consonant sound made by the back of the tongue against the soft palate or **velum,** such as [k] and [g]. Any secondary articulation involving a movement towards the velum is called **velarization.** Such **velarized** sounds have a distinctive back (or 'dark') resonance.

velaric airstream The use of tongue contact with the **velum** to initiate an airstream capable of making consonant sounds. An **ingressive** flow of air results, which is used in the production of click consonants. See also **airstream; click; velar.**

velarization See **secondary articulation; velar.**

ventricular Descriptive of a sound produced between the ventricular bands, or 'false' vocal folds, lying immediately above and parallel with the true vocal folds. See also **vocal folds.**

verb (V) A word class, traditionally defined as a 'doing' or 'action' word, formally identifiable in many languages as an element displaying contrasts of tense, aspect, voice, mood, person, and number. Functionally, it is the element that can be used as the minimal predicate of a sentence, co-occurring with a subject (e.g. *She / answered*), and generally dictating the number and nature of other elements in the predicate. Traditionally, a **verb phrase** is a group of verbs which together have the same syntactic function as a single verb (e.g. *He left / may have left*); also called a **verbal group** or **verbal cluster.** In such sequences, one verb is the **main verb** or **lexical verb;** other verbs are subordinate to it, e.g. **auxiliary verbs** or **catenative verbs.** A verb followed by a non-verbal particle is a **phrasal verb.** In generative grammar, **verb phrase** has a broader definition, being equivalent to the whole of the predicate of a sentence. See also **phrase; predicate; serial verb construction.**

verbal dueling The competitive use of language, within a game-like structure, with rules that are known and used by

the participants. This is a ritual dialog in which each speaker attempts to outdo an opponent by producing an utterance of increased verbal ingenuity. See also **verbal play.**

verbal group See **group.**

verbal paraphasia See **semantic paraphasia.**

verbal play The playful manipulation of the elements of language, either in relation to each other, or in relation to the social or cultural contexts of language use; also called **speech play.** Humor is not an essential part of the definition. The notion includes play languages, puns, jokes, verbal dueling, proverbs, and riddles. See also **play language; verbal dueling.**

verbless clause A clause in which the verb is omitted (and often the subject as well), e.g. *When ready, the bus left.* See also **clause; small clause.**

verb phrase See **verb.**

vernacular The indigenous language or dialect of a speech community. Pidgin languages are sometimes called **contact vernaculars.** See also **pidgin.**

V forms See **T/V forms.**

vocable See **phonetically consistent forms.**

vocal-auditory channel The sensory mode used for the transmission and reception of spoken language.

vocal cords See **vocal folds.**

vocal folds Two bands of muscular tissue within the larynx, which vibrate in response to an airstream; also called **vocal cords, vocal bands,** or occasionally **vocal lips.** The vocal folds are important in the production of voiced sounds, variations in pitch, and several voice qualities. See also **glottal; larynx; phonation; pitch; voice quality 2; voicing.**

vocal fry See **creaky voice.**

vocalic In Phonological Feature Theory, characteristic of a type of sound (a major class feature) where there is a free passage of air through the vocal tract, the vocal folds allow spontaneous voicing, and there is a sharply defined formant structure; contrasts with a **non-vocalic** sound, which lacks one or other of these conditions. See also **major class feature; Phonological Feature Theory; vowel.**

vocalization An utterance viewed solely as a sequence of sound, without reference to its internal linguistic structure, if any; for example, **infant vocalization** refers to a pre-linguistic period of utterance by very young children.

vocal organs The physiological structures actively involved in the process of speaking. They are usually grouped into three systems: the **respiratory system,** containing the lungs and trachea; the **larynx,** enclosing the vocal folds; and the **supralaryngeal system,** comprising the movable organs in the mouth (primarily the tongue, lips, lower jaw, soft palate), the relatively fixed structures in the mouth (primarily the teeth and hard palate), and the nasal cavity.

vocal tract The whole of the air passage above the larynx, the shape of which is the main factor affecting the quality of speech sounds; generally divided into the nasal and oral tracts. The term is sometimes used in a more general way for the whole of the respiratory tract involved in speech sound production (including lungs and larynx). See also **cavity; vocal organs.**

vocative The inflectional category of case often assumed by a noun phrase (typically, a single noun or pronoun) when used in the function of direct address. In non-inflecting languages, the term refers to any noun phrase used in this function (often with a distinctive intonation), e.g. *The dog is in the garden, Hilary.* See also **case.**

vocoder See **channel vocoder.**

vocoid See **contoid.**

voice 1 See **voicing.** 2 See **active 1.**

voice-onset time (VOT) The point in time at which vocal-fold vibration starts, following the release of a closure. See also **lag; vocal folds.**

voiceprint A display of a person's voice, using a spectrographic or similar output, especially as part of a study of speaker identification. See also **speaker recognition; spectrograph; voice quality 1.**

voice qualifier See **paralanguage.**

voice quality 1 Those aspects of a person's speech that result from the particular mode of vibration of the vocal folds used by that speaker. 2 More generally, all the personal attributes of a voice, regardless of whether they result from actions of the vocal folds or of other organs; also called **voice set.** See also **speech recognition; vocal folds; voiceprint.**

voicing The vibration of the vocal folds in response to an airstream passing between them. Sounds which use vocal fold vibration are **voiced;** those which do not are **voiceless** or **unvoiced.** Voiced sounds may be **devoiced** under certain conditions. **Voiced** is also an articulatory feature within **Phonological Feature Theory.** See also **laryngeal activity; vocal folds.**

VOT The abbreviation for **voice-onset time.**

vowel In phonetics, a speech sound produced by a relatively open configuration of the vocal tract. In phonology, a unit of the sound system which typically occupies the nucleus of a syllable. In both approaches, the term is contrasted with consonant. See also **consonant; monophthong; syllable; vocalic; vocoid.**

vowel harmony See **harmony.**

VP The abbreviation for **verb phrase.**

wave theory A dynamic view of language change, suggesting that speech variations spread from a specific linguistic area, having maximum effect on adjacent varieties, and progressively less effect on those farther away.

weak See **adequacy.**

weak equivalence See **equivalence.**

weak form See **strong form.**

well-formedness See **grammaticality.**

WH-clause A clause introduced by a WH-word, as in *I know what he will say.*

WH-form A class of items in English, generally beginning

with *wh-* (e.g. *why, what, where, how*), used in **WH-questions,** in relative pronouns (WH-relatives), in complements (WH-complements), and in movement rules (WH-movement, WH-fronting, or WH-preposing). A **WH-NP** is a noun phrase introduced by a WH-word (e.g. *what questions*); a **WH-NP** is any phrase introduced by a WH-word. See also **question; relative.**

whistle speech A stylized form of communication in which whistling substitutes for the tones of normal speech.

Whorfian hypothesis See **linguistic relativity.**

width A parameter of contrast for vowels in some languages: vowels with the same tongue height may be distinguished in terms of pharynx width as **wide** vs. **narrow** vowels. Greater pharynx width is achieved by lowering the larynx. See also **pharyngeal.**

W* language See **configurational language.**

word A unit of expression in both spoken and written language, with several possible definitions. The **orthographic word** is the unit bounded by spaces in the written language. The **phonological word** is the corresponding unit for speech, bounded by (real or potential) pauses or **juncture** features. At a more abstract level, it is a grammatical unit consisting of morphemes (minimally, one free morpheme) and functioning to form phrases, clauses, and sentences. **Word order** refers to the sequential arrangement of (grammatical) words in a language. **Word grammar** is a theory which claims that grammatical knowledge is largely a body of knowledge about words. See also **configurational language; lexeme; word class.**

Word and Paradigm See **Item and Arrangement.**

word class A group of words which share the same syntactic and morphological properties; traditionally called a **part of speech;** also sometimes subsumed under **form class.** See also **closed class; invariable word.**

word formation See **affixation; morphology.**

WP The abbreviation for the **Word and Paradigm** model of description.

X-bar Theory A system of generative linguistic analysis developed as an alternative to traditional accounts of phrase structure and lexical categories, in which the rules of phrase-structure grammar are more constrained, and more phrasal categories are recognized. In particular, within the noun phrase, intermediate categories are established larger than the noun but smaller than the phrase; each level of phrasal expansion is called an **X-bar,** normally written $\bar{X}$ or, for greater typographic ease, X′. Each of the bar categories corresponding to the lexical category X is a **bar-projection** of X. See also **bar; double-bar; single-bar.**

X-tier In **Autosegmental Phonology,** a conception of the skeletal tier in which the feature [syllabic] is eliminated, segments being specified for no features at all; also called the **timing unit** or **timing tier** theory; contrasts with the **CV-tier** approach. See also **skeletal tier; tier.**

zero An abstract unit with no physical realization in the stream of speech; also called a **null element.** The term is commonly used for the absence of a morpheme in contexts where one would normally occur; for example, **zero article** (where there is no definite or indefinite article before a noun) and **zero relative clause** (where the relative pronoun is omitted). A **zero morph** is sometimes proposed to handle singular/plural alternations in such nouns as *sheep*. In X-bar Theory, a **zero-level** or **zero-bar category** is a lexical category. See also **empty element; infinitive; morpheme; realization; X-bar Theory.**