

## SYNTAX (MA Sem II, Paper II)

Dear Students,

We have got introduced to Chomsky's theory of generative grammar during my interactions with you. As we noted, Chomsky's theory of grammar is his answer to the question he dubs as 'Plato's problem' in Chomsky(1986) which is 'How do we know so much in our language when we are given very little evidence for it (i.e. to construct that knowledge)'. That is, we have to contend with 'poverty of stimulus' when we come to the task of acquiring language, yet we accomplish the task successfully. As an answer to this paradox, Chomsky essentially falls back on a mentalist stand, arguing that we have an innate help to acquiring language which is a genetic endowment common to all human beings. We have already looked at the early phase of transformational grammar and also started with the principles and the parameters approach to Universal Grammar, with the modules of subtheories like the X-bar theory of phrase structure and Theta theory. Here I am giving you leads to certain online links which will help you to study them further.

For general introduction to principles and parameters approach to grammar:

<https://linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hunter/ugrad-thesis/ling2680essay.pdf>

All the topics in your course are to be found from this link below:

<http://www.bu.edu/linguistics/UG/course/lx522-f02/handouts.html>

Additional reference links:

### **For X-bar syntax**

[https://faculty.washington.edu/wassink/LING200/lect14\\_syntax2.pdf](https://faculty.washington.edu/wassink/LING200/lect14_syntax2.pdf)

<http://59.108.48.12/lcwm/course/fs/lec/lec03.pdf>

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/adam/files/syntax.ppt.pdf>

### **Theta theory**

[http://www.sfu.ca/~hedberg/322\\_08\\_2\\_note7.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/~hedberg/322_08_2_note7.pdf)

<https://acasearch.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/constrainingx-bartheorylexicon.pdf>

### **Material in Hindi:**

[https://www.academia.edu/27222475/Chomsky\\_ka\\_vyakaran\\_siddhanta.pdf](https://www.academia.edu/27222475/Chomsky_ka_vyakaran_siddhanta.pdf)

### **Recommended texts:**

Carnie, Andrew. 2006. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.

Chomsky, N.A. 1986. *Knowledge of Language: its Nature, Origins and use*. New York: Praeger.

Haegeman, L. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.) . Oxford: Blackwell.

Ouhalla, J. 1999. *Introducing Transformational Grammar: from Principles and Parameters to Minimalist theory*. London: Edward Arnold.