Noam Chomsky

By Giovanni Anastasio

Biographical Sketch

- Full Name- Avram Noam Chomsky

- Born December 7th, 1928 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Born into a middle-class Jewish family.

- Married to Carol Chomsky, with 3 children.

- Linguist, Cognitive Scientist, Analytic Philosopher, and a Political Activist

- Often traveled to New York City as a kid to visit alternate book stores.

Biographical Sketch

- Attended the University at Pennsylvania.
  - Structuralism
  - "Syntax and phonology are matters of abstract representation"
- Junior Fellow of the Harvard society of fellows from 1951-1955
- Taught linguistics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology
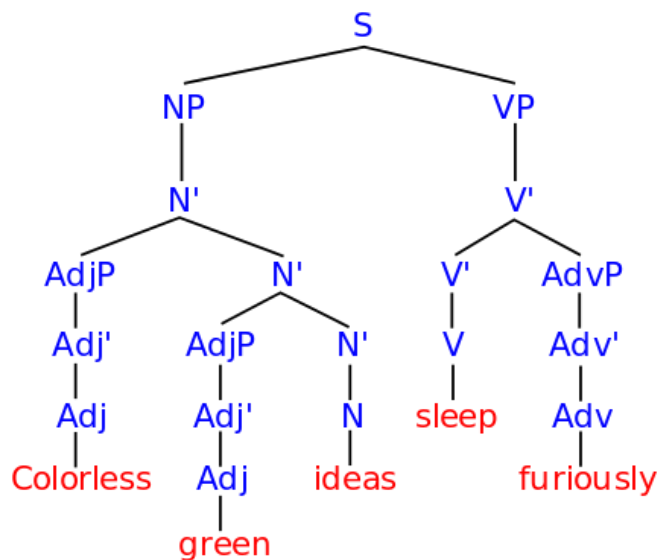- Professor at the university of Arizona
- Author of over 100 books

Phrase Structure Rules

Phrase structure rules generate structures.

- TP/S ⟶ • NP VP
- NP ⟶ • {Art (Adj+) N, Pro, PN}
- VP ⟶ • V NP (PP) (Adv)
- PP ⟶ • P NP

Tree Diagrams

Generative grammar/Universal Grammar

- Classifies grammar as a system of rules
- Creates a combination of words that form grammatical sentences
- Humans languages are all structured on the same abstract template.
- Humans have a set of rules we follow that allow us to determine if something is grammatical
- Went against what had be previously been accepted.

Syntactic Structures

- Revised Lecture Notes

- Written in 1957 while at MIT

- Introduced his idea of Transformational Generative Grammar

- Phrase structure
  - Break down sentences into smaller piece

- Transformational Rules
  - Allow for different sentence structures

Chomsky Hierarchy

- Developed in 1956

- Broke down formal grammar into 4 different classes
  - Type -0 (most general)
  - Type -1
  - Type -2
    - Terminal symbols- symbols in language
    - Nonterminal symbols- symbols not in language
  - Type -3

The Hierarchy

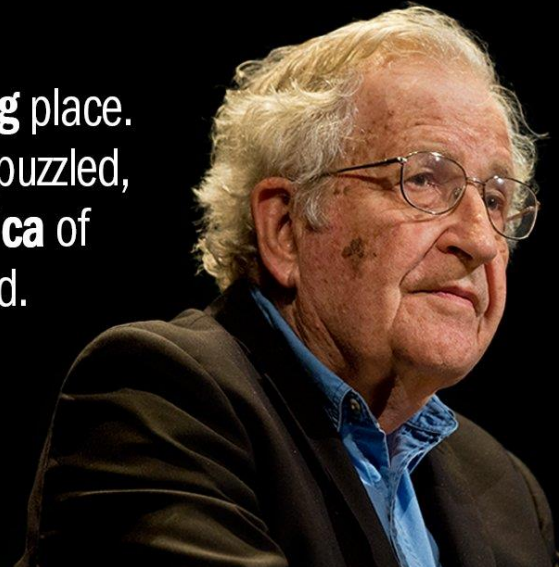| Class	Grammars	Languages	Automaton
Type-0	Unrestricted	Recursive Enumerable	Turing Machine
Type-1	Context Sensitive	Context Sensitive	Linear-Bound
Type-2	Context Free	Context Free	Pushdown
Type-3	Regular	Regular	Finite

Quotes By Chomsky

- "Human language appears to be a unique phenomenon, without significant analogue in the animal world."

- "Education must provide the opportunities for self-fulfillment; it can at best provide a rich and challenging environment for the individual to explore, in his own way."

- "I like the cold weather. It means you get work done."

- "Colorless green ideas sleep furiously."

- "Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so."

The world is a very **puzzling** place. If you're **not willing** to be puzzled, you just become a **replica** of someone else's mind.

– *Noam Chomsky*

AZ QUOTES

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