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Short Video Assignment

4/10/2019

Generative Syntax of a Language

The video that I have chosen for this assignment gives a first look at the generative syntax of the English language. The narrator begins the video by talking about how the syntax of English and many other languages have a recursive structure, meaning that you can build a sentence by repeatedly adding smaller parts of language of the same type. She describes how language has a unique property: you can make an infinite number of sentences from a finite number of symbols by following a finite set of rules. The narrator then gives two great examples using visuals that show the properties that she discussed before. She also goes on to mention a key point of generative syntax. This key point being that although a human may be constrained by how many sentences they can generate, generative syntax as a system can repeat infinitely.

I believe the video I have chosen as a whole relates directly to the concepts of this assignment. Through the video she explains the idea of generative syntax, which is a generative process. Generative syntax is part of the theory of generative grammar and generative grammar not only considers the syntax of a sentence, but also its semantics. Throughout the video the narrator shows how sentences in a language can be infinitely generated based on a finite set of rules generated by repeatedly applying the same idea recursively. These concepts are all attributes of what make a generative process showing how generative syntax too is an example of a generative process.

Grade: $(.92*40 + .95*20 + 1*20 + .90*20) = 93.8$