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NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING: A TUTORIAL

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Sharon M. Walter

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This report is an introduction to Natural Language Processing (NLP) research, the subfield of Artificial Intelligence (AI) attempting to produce computer programs capable of communicating with humans in their own language (English, for instance). Definitions of AI terminology relative to NLP and an overview of keyword, syntactic, and semantic parsing technologies are included.

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I. Introduction

This report is structured to serve as an entry level, practical guide to research in the field of Natural Language processing by computer. Its design and composition are meant to provide a good basis for further study and practice in the field.

Section II defines the varied goals of researchers involved in producing computer programs that `process' Natural Language and attempts to provide a feeling for the full challenge of the task by outlining the problems that require solution.

As a subfield of Artificial Intelligence (AI), describing Natural Language processing often requires a subset of the terminology of AI. Section III of this report defines members of that subset in the context of the Natural Language processing task.

Various schemes for categorizing approaches to processing Natural Language exist. The most referenced scheme, from Terry Winograd's influential book Understanding Natural Language [Winograd; 1972], partitions approaches into four groups based on their representation and use of knowledge: "special format" systems were the early, keyword and pattern matching systems, "text-based" systems had a prestored text and indexing schemes to retrieve pertinent data, "limited-logic" systems were those whose databases were stored in some formal notation and which retrieved information using simple logical inferences, and lastly,

"general deductive" systems were those using a uniform notation for representing problems and knowledge. This report will divide Natural Language technologies, basically, into `linguistics-based' and alternative approaches. Section IV describes methods which are primarily derived from Linguistic theories. Section V will describe research into alternative approaches: simple pattern matching systems, and more complex systems which attempt to work from, and develop, representations of meaning.

Appendices to this report include a glossary of field-related terms. For each term, an index directs the reader to an explanation of the term in the report. The names of computer systems used in the report as examples of concepts are also listed in the glossary, each with page numbers of where the system is mentioned. None of the systems are described in detail. The first mention of any system includes a reference to a source for more in-depth information.

Examples of concepts in the text are meant to demonstrate concept "...sics": they may, or may not, be wholly descriptive of those concepts. Many examples have been taken directly (or with modifications for simplification) from previously published work. References are provided. Hopefully, the use and description of examples is faithful to the originating authors' perspective. The responsibility for incorrect or misleading interpretations of other published work rests solely with this report's author.

II. `Processing' Natural Language

A. What Does It Mean to `Process' Human Language?

In the present context, parsing a human utterance is transforming
an input expression into a coded (computer language) representation of
that expression for use in further processing. Most often, "parsing"
implies creating a representation of the structure, or syntax, of an
expression. Parsing can also refer to the creation of a representation
of the `meaning' of an expression. In either case, parsing entails
restructuring input into a representation more suitable for a specific
application. The opposing aspect of `processing' human language
`generates' natural language from code. Processing natural language
combines `parsing' and `generation', with additional manipulations (such
as inferencing), to provide a computer with the facilities necessary to
allow facile communication with humans—communication of the type that
is typical of human-to-human communication.

The primary focus of this report is research into computer parsing
of typewritten English. Little or no reference is made to the
generation of natural language since, until very recently, such research
has been sparse. [McDonald; 1984] is a very good source of information
on existing generation technology. The `additional manipulations' vary
from implementation to implementation and are largely knowledge
manipulation tasks neccessary for broader AI research. Hence, reference
is made to these manipulations only as they concern specific programming
examples.

B. Why Attempt Computer Understanding of Natural Language?

The goal of some researchers in attempting to develop computer programs that process Natural Language is to understand how humans produce and understand language. Their research attempts to 'model' the exact processes used by humans (cognitive modeling). Hypotheses are often tested using various experiments that compare specific aspects of human versus computer processing of language. Parsifal, described briefly in section III, is an example of a computer program designed to model a specific aspect of human language understanding.

Other researchers work to produce utilitarian systems. While many people could profit from interaction with computers, special training is usually necessary to make them accessible. Thus, systems that facilitate communication between humans and complex computer programs, and systems to simplify information retrieval from large libraries of computer storage are necessary. LUNAR [Woods; 1972] and INTELLECT (formerly called ROBOT [Harris; 1977]) [AI Corporation; 1980] are among the systems designed to serve as natural language front-ends to large databases. The LUNAR system, developed by William Woods, answers questions about moon rock samples from the Apollo-11 mission using a large database provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA). INTELLECT is a commercially available system which can be customized for Natural Language access to purchasers' databases.

Other research attempts to automate the translation of text from one human language to another or to provide interactive instruction to

humans on difficult tasks.

The desire to automate language translation was the stimulus for research into computer understanding. Initial efforts, aimed at changing Russian into English, attempted word-for-word language translations. An oft-repeated, presumably fictional anecdote illustrates the inadequate results of word-for-word translation: The sentence, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" when translated into Russian, and then back into English by a language translation program became: "The vodka is strong but the steak is rotten." The point is that some, possibly vast amounts of knowledge are required for effective language translations. Fully automated, high-quality translation (FAHQT) systems are not available. However, various commercial systems for "computer-assisted" translations exist.

Computer-Aided Instruction (CAI) involves the interaction between a person and a computer with the computer acting as tutor, teaching the human a specific topic. CAI of the most valuable form would allow a student to give free-form questions and answers to a knowledgeable computer program and receive clear, informative responses. SOPHIE (SOPHisticated Instructional Environment) was a CAI system which provided instruction on electronics troubleshooting. The system presented students with a malfunctioning piece of electronics equipment and a challenge to find the fault in the circuitry. SOPHIE randomly selected a fault, inserted it into a simulation of a circuit, and explained the control settings for the faulty circuit to the student. In dialogue with the student, SOPHIE answered questions, critiqued

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hypotheses, and made suggestions designed to develop the student's troubleshooting skills. Sample dialogue of SOPHIE interacting with a student is shown in Appendix B of this report.

C. What Knowledge is Required for Understanding Natural Language?

Largely, the amount and type of knowledge that must be incorporated into a program for language processing depends on the degree of understanding desired. Systems using simple pattern matching and word phrase substitution, as in those described by Section V.B.1. (Keyword/Simple Pattern Matching Systems), demonstrate no real language understanding but may be satisfactory in some instances. Most useful Natural Language processing will require a much greater degree of sentence analysis and understanding. Some will require understanding comparable to human understanding.

Comprehension of a sentence requires, as a minimum, an understanding of the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of human language. The "syntax" of a language defines the `structure' of objects in the language. It describes how basic units fit together to form structurally (syntactically) correct members of the language. In human language for example, if a sentence can be a sequence of words such that the first is from the syntactic class of adjectives, the second is an adjective, next a noun, a verb and, finally, an adverb, then the following is a syntactically correct sentence:

(1) Colorless green ideas sleep furiously. [Chomsky; 1965]

The Autonomy of Syntax Hypothesis proposes that syntax, as a distinct component of language, can be studied as a distinct entity, later defining its relationship to sentence semantics and pragmatics. Language research has focused, in the past, largely on the syntactic language component.

The "semantics" of a language associates a `meaning' to each of its constructs. The syntax of the following sentences is the same, but the semantics are obviously different:

(2)   The artist painted using a new technique.
                The artist painted using a new paintbrush.

"Pragmatics" is the study of language in context. It is the `intended meaning' of an utterance. Pragmatic knowledge can eliminate the "stonewalling behavior" demonstrated in the following exchange:

(3)   Do you know Sarah's last name?
             Yes.

          Could you give it to me?
             Yes.

          Can you tell me Sarah's last name?
             Yes.

Understanding idioms also requires the use of pragmatic knowledge. An idiom is a sequence of words with a special meaning when taken as a unit, apart from its literal meaning when taken word for word. To say that someone "kicked the bucket" has a literal meaning, but more often

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implies that a person has ceased to live.

In recent years there has been a surge in studies of language semantics and some, limited, study of pragmatics. The format of interaction among language components is somewhat controversial. In some systems, LUNAR for instance (described briefly in II.B.), a first pass through a sentence produces a representation of its syntactic structure and a second phase uses the result to construct a semantic interpretation. Systems based on Roger Schank's Conceptual Dependency (CD) Theory (See section V.C.2) build a semantic structure directly from the input string, using syntactic information when necessary. Terry Winograd's SHRDLU program [Winograd; 1972] attempted to deal with syntax and semantics in an integrated way. SHRDLU simulates a robot arm in a small domain containing blocks of different shapes and colors. In a dialogue with the system a person can give commands, state facts, and ask questions about the state of the blocks world.

D. What Problems are Encountered When Attempting to Provide Natural Language Understanding Capabilities to Computers?

There are a number of aspects of human language that a system must handle in order to be capable of fluent communication. To take human imperfection into account, a system must understand misspelled and ungrammatical inputs. Additional features of natural language to consider are: ambiguity, anaphoric reference, and ellipsis.

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A human utterance is ambiguous if it has two or more possible interpretations. There are a variety of reasons why a statement might be ambiguous. A word which belongs to more than one syntactic class may cause an utterance to be ambiguous. For instance, the word "duck", interpreted as a noun in "He saw her duck" (and "her" as an adjective) implies that an animal was seen. If "duck" is interpreted as a verb (and "her" as a noun), the sentence implies that an act of "ducking" was seen.

Some words have multiple senses, or meanings, which belong to the same syntactic class. The appropriate sense of the word must be determined by its context in the sentence or situation. A classic example is the use of the word "pen" in "The pen is in the box" and "The box is in the pen". Where "pen" can refer to a writing instrument or a child's playpen, a noun in either case.

Sentences may be "structurally" ambiguous, as in:

(4)   "Waiter, I would like spaghetti with meat sauce and wine."
            "Waiter, I would like spaghetti with butter and garlic."
                                                    [Charniak; 1976]

In the first sentence, "spaghetti with meat sauce" and "wine" are understood as individual phrases. In the second, "spaghetti" and "butter and garlic" make up individual phrases. The structure of these sentences is made clear by their meaning. The structure of "the old men and women" is not so easily clarified. Does the phrase refer to old people of either gender, or does it refer to women of any age and men

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who are old? Conjunctive phrases, phrases joined by "and", and

disjunctive phrases, those joined by "or", are a major cause of

ambiguous syntactic structure. Structural ambiguity might also be

caused by confusion over which sentence concept is being modified by a

prepositional phrase. The classic example is: "I saw the man on the

hill with the telescope." Who is on the hill, "the man" or the speaker?

Who has the telescope, "the man", the speaker, or "the hill"?

Anaphoric reference is reference to something previously mentioned

in the conversation without being specific in that reference. The

following examples demonstrate the concept, and some of the

distinguishable types, of anaphoric reference [Webber; 1979]:

(5)   a. Pronominal Reference
          As in: "Today I met a man with two heads. I found him very strange."
          The pronoun "him" refers to the just-mentioned man with two heads.

       b. Noun Phrase Anaphora
          As in: "Today I met a man who owned two talented monkeys.
                  The monkeys were discussing Proust."
          "The monkeys" alludes to the two just-mentioned monkeys.

       c. "One" Anaphora
          As in: "Wendy got a blue crayon for her birthday and
                  I got a purple one."
          The "one" is a crayon.

       d. Set Selection Anaphora
          As in: "The vendor listed fifteen flavors of ice cream.
                  Bob wanted the fifth."
          (ie. "the fifth" flavor of ice cream)

Recent trends toward combining modes of communication with

computers (eg. typed input, graphic displays, touch screen input,...)

have introduced a new, but similar problem of determining the object(s)

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of reference: deictic reference. Deixis involves reference to things
that have not been explicitly referred to (by speech or typed input),
but are present in some way in the nonlinguistic context of the
conversation. For instance, a graphic display may be pointed to with a
request to: "Identify this."

Ellipsis occurs in human conversation when people omit portions of
sentences, assuming that the missing parts can be filled in by the
listener (or reader). An example:

(6)   What kind of ice cream does Carol like?
         Ted thinks ⟋ vanilla ↓ .
                  ⤸
          (that Carol likes)   (ice cream)

E. What Representation Schemes are Used?

Many researchers attempt to form a computer language representation
of input that stresses the syntax of the input. These representations
can be displayed in graph forms similar to diagrams of sentences
produced in grade school English class. Such a representation scheme is
defined by a grammar.

A grammar of a language specifies the sequences of basic units that
are allowed in the language. A grammar can be used to describe
well-formed computer language constructs or well-formed human sentences.
Grammars of languages, including computer languages, are described by a
set of terminal and nonterminal symbols, including a distinguished

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nonterminal to serve as the unique starting symbol, and a set of rewrite (or production) rules. For the purpose of defining a grammar for English the non-terminal symbols are usually syntactic categories such as "Sentence", "Noun Phrase", etc. Nonterminals in this report will be abbreviated as S, NP, etc. The terminal symbols of natural languages are the words. Rewrite rules (productions) specify the relations among terminals and non-terminals. For example, S -> NP VP means that the symbol S can be rewritten, or replaced, by a NP followed by a VP. Hence, a sentence is a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase. Det -> "the", means the symbol Det can be rewritten by the terminal symbol "the".

To illustrate, here are the rules of a grammar for a very small subset of English:

(7a)	S -> NP VP		(7e)	Det -> the
(7b)	NP -> Det N		(7f)	N -> boy
(7c)	NP -> N		(7g)	N -> Mary
(7d)	VP -> V NP		(7h)	V -> kissed

The terminal symbols of the grammar are the words: "the", "boy", "Mary", and "kissed". The grammar indicates that these words belong, respectively, to the syntactic categories of determiner (Det), noun (N), noun, and verb (V).

Grammar rule (7a) defines a sentence (S) as a noun phrase (NP) followed by a verb phrase (VP). Rules (7b) and (7c) state that a noun phrase can be either a determiner followed by a noun OR simply a noun. Rule (7d) defines a verb phrase as a verb followed by a noun phrase.

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Thus, the syntactic structure of the sentence, "The boy kissed Mar_ , may be represented in tree form as:

```
                        S
              NP                   VP
        Det        N          V         NP
         |         |          |          N
        the       boy       kissed       |
                                        Mary
```
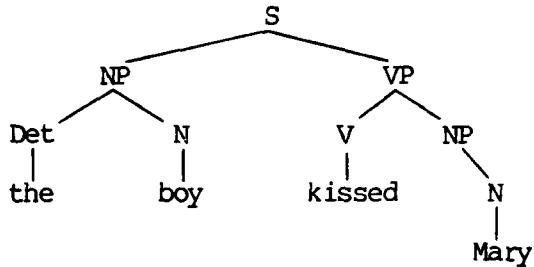
Figure 1
Syntactic Tree Structure of "The boy kissed Mary." *

This report will categorize processing efforts which focus on the syntactic category of each word and the syntactic structure of each utterance as "syntax-based". Other researchers attempt coded representation of language using various other means and concentrating on other types of information (See Section V.).

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 * In reality, grammars designed to define human language contain some terminal nodes that are not words. These nodes are grammatical items (eg. "Past", "Possessive") that will later combine with other terminal nodes to determine the appropriate form of a word, for instance the past tense of a verb. Readers should be aware of this phenomena, but examples in this report for the sake of clarifying basic concepts will overlook this detail.

III. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Terms Relative to
     Natural Language Processing

There are a number of terms, alluded to in the Introduction, having
a general meaning in the broader context of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
and more specific implications when applied to the field of Natural
Language Processing. Those terms will be defined here.

The terms top-down and bottom-up processing are applicable to
Natural Language Processing, and are generally applied to syntax-based
processing. Top-down or hypothesis-driven processing starts with the
hypothesis that an input is a sentence and tries to prove it.
Processing begins with the start symbol, S. A grammar rule to expand
the S node is found and applied. At each succeeding stage, appropriate
grammar rules are found and applied to the remaining non-terminal nodes
until all non-terminal nodes have been expanded and the terminal nodes
that remain are the words of the sentence being processed. The sample
grammar of Section II will be used to clarify the notions of top-down
and bottom-up processing.

Top-down processing begins with the start symbol S. Rule (7a)
applies and produces the structure in Figure 2:

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```
         S
        / \
      NP   VP
```
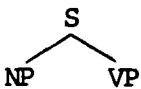
Figure 2

Rules (7b) or (7c) can expand NP. Rule (7d) can expand VP. In
top-down processing, expanding the leftmost node first (in this case NP)
and continuing to the right (left-to-right parsing) produces the same
structure as right-to-left parsing. Thus at this point, the same
structure results whether NP or VP is expanded first. Applying rules
(7b) and (7d) will produce the following structure:

```
            S
          /   \
        NP     VP
       /  \   /  \
     Det   N V    NP
```
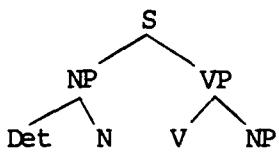
Figure 3

Note that a different stucture, inappropriate for the current
sentence being parsed, would be produced from expanding NP with rule
(7c) rather than with rule (7b).

Applying rules (7e), (7f), (7h), and (7c), in any order, produces
the structure in Figure 4. Finally, rule (7g) is applicable and
produces the completed structure of Figure 1.

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```
                    S
             ┌──────┴──────┐
            NP             VP
         ┌───┴───┐      ┌───┴───┐
        Det      N      V       NP
         │       │      │        \
        the     boy   kissed      N
```
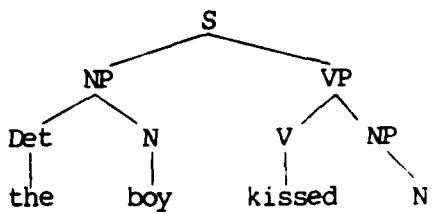
Figure 4

Bottom-up or <u>data-driven processing</u> begins with the input string.
Using the grammar rules, each word is replaced by its syntactic
category. When the right-hand side of a grammar rule is matched by an
ordered string of these categories, the string is reduced by replacing
it with the left-hand side of the rule. Categories are combined
repeatedly until a single structure, with the sentence (S) category at
the top, is reached. For our example sentence and grammar, the
following structure is produced first:

```
        Det   N     V      N
         │    │     │      │
        the  boy  kissed  Mary
```

Figure 5

At this point, rule (7b) and rule (7c) can be applied to produce
Figure 6:
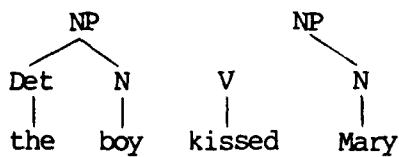
```

```
              NP   NP
             / \   /
         Det   N   V   N
          | | | |
         the   boy   kissed Mary
```

Figure 6

Rule (7d) combines V and the second NP into a VP (Figure 7).

```
                              VP
                             /  \
              NP            /    NP
             /  \          /     /
         Det     N      V       N
          |      |      |       |
         the    boy   kissed   Mary
```

Figure 7

Finally, rule (7a) resolves the structure into Figure 1.

Even with this very simple grammar, there are occasions when two or
more rules are applicable. If the applicable rules do not interfere
with one another, a decision still must be made about the order of their
application. In addition to left-to-right and right-to-left parsing,
there is a third, less used tact for determining where processing will
continue, called island-driving. Island-driving goes neither strictly
from left to right, nor strictly from right to left. Rather, it uses
specific heuristics, or rules-of-thumb, to direct which part of the
input will be processed next and continues by processing neighboring
chunks of increasing size. For example, in looking for a noun phrase a
processor might look first for a noun, then look to the left of the noun

- 17 -
```
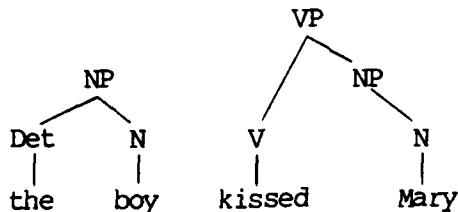
for adjectives and determiners and look to the noun's right for modifying phrases.

```
                          S
                        /   \
                      NP      VP
                     /  \    /   \
                   Det   N  V      NP
                    |    |  |
                   the  boy kissed
```
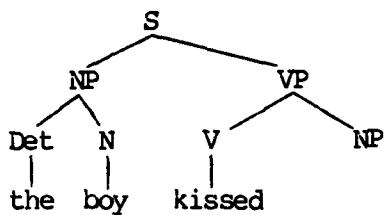
Figure 8

What do we do when two or more rules, applicable at some point in the parsing process, reference intersecting portions of the structure produced so far? Assume, for the sake of clarification, we are in the midst of a top-down parse of our sample sentence, "The boy kissed Mary", using the example grammar. Assume also, that Figure 8 displays the current state of the parse. At this point, either rule (7b) or rule (7c) can be used to expand the NP. A deterministic parser would make a firm decision about which one of the applicable rules to use. After that rule is applied, the parser is committed to its decision, right or wrong, and will not get an opportunity to redo the parse in another way.

Mitchell Marcus contends that people parse language in a deterministic manner. Marcus designed a sentence parsing program, Parsifal [Marcus; 1980], to support this theory and measured the program's success at modeling human sentence understanding by comparing its competence with human competence in interpreting garden path sentences. Garden path sentences are sentences which tend to initially

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mislead readers, leading them "down the garden path", regarding their structure. A second, more conscious effort is required for understanding such sentences. The following are well-known examples of garden path sentences:

(8a)   The horse raced past the barn fell.
(8b)   The prime number few. *

Parsifal uses a technique called look-ahead to help decide on an approporiate parsing path. Parsifal holds off on making its decision and `looks ahead' to get an idea about what is coming up before choosing its path.

A non-deterministic parser can deal with multiple paths using either depth-first or breadth-first processing. If a parser keeps track of all possible paths (or a useful subset of them) and continues building the structure on each of them in parallel, it is processing breadth-first (usually called parallel processing in the context of Natural Language processing). In depth-first processing one of the paths is followed. If, at some point, the choice is proven to have been wrong, the parser will back-up, or backtrack, to the state of the parse just previous to when the incorrect path was taken and try another path.

------

* [Milne; 1983] points out that Parsifal would understand (8b) without difficulty while human readers would usually garden path. Dr. Milne's parser, Robie, combines look-ahead with the use of non-syntactic information to resolve word sense ambiguities. Milne proposes that Robie more closely models human language processing, evidenced by the fact that it garden paths on (8b).

From the stage of the parse illustrated by Figure 8, if parallel processing is used, the following two structures would be built (Figures 9 and 10).

```
           S                               S
         /   \                           /   \
       NP     VP                       NP     VP
      /  \   /  \                     /  \   /  \
    Det   N V    NP                 Det   N V    NP
     |    | |    / \                 |    | |     \
    the  boy kissed                 the  boy kissed N
              Det   N
```
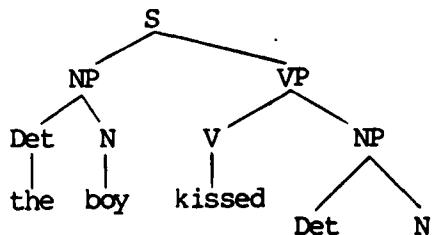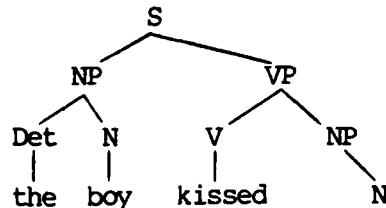
Figure 9   Figure 10

Figure 9 is constructed when rule (7b) is applied to the structure of Figure 8. Figure 10 follows from applying rule (7c) to the structure of Figure 8. As parallel processing continues, additional structure may be built onto each of these structures. In our particular example, (7e) is the only rule that will expand the symbol `Det' in the structure of Figure 9, but it produces a structure with a terminal node that conflicts with the desired root nodes, the words of the sentence. Processing on the structure of Figure 9 halts, leaving Figure 10 as the only structure to build upon.

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IV. Linguistics-Based Processing

A. Linguistic Theory as a Basis for Processing Natural Language

A considerable percentage of Natural Language Processing research has developed from the scientific study of language (Linguistics). Thus, an overview of the basic ideas and history from Linguistic Theory is necessary background for a full understanding. Some of the theory and associated terminology of Linguistics is described here.

In the 1950's a linguist, Noam Chomsky, developed a classification system grouping grammars into classes according to the type of rules allowed in their definition. There are four types of grammars in this classification scheme, labeled type 0, 1, 2, and 3. From type 0 to type 3, the rules of the grammars become more restrictive and the languages generated become simpler. Each grammar type, is a proper subset of the next lower-numbered type. *Lower numbered grammars are considered "more powerful"* because they allow a larger number of legal strings. Chomsky's classification is useful for describing grammars for computer or human languages.

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1. Chomsky's Classification of Grammars

Type 0 Grammars *

A type 0 grammar is one in which there are no restrictions on the form that the rewrite rules can take. The left-hand side of each rewrite rule describes a non-empty string of symbols. The right-hand side describes a string that may be used in place of any string that matches the rule's left-hand side.

Type 1 Grammars

A grammar is a type 1 grammar if, for each production of the grammar the right-hand side consists of the left-hand side with a single symbol expanded. Since symbols in a type 1 grammar can only be rewritten within a certain context, these grammars are called context-sensitive grammars.

An example of a context-sensitive grammar is the following (Capital letters represent single, non-terminal symbols. Lowercase letters represent terminals.):

(9a)	S -> aSBC
(9b)	S -> abC
(9c)	CB -> DB
(9d)	DB -> DC
(9e)	DC -> BC
(9f)	bB -> bb
(9g)	C -> d

-----

* No example of a Type 0 grammar is provided. There are no simple examples that are not also of Type 1.

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The string `aaabbbddd' is a member of the language defined by this grammar and can be derived in the following manner:

```
                           Rule Used
Start Symbol:                  S
               (9a)         aSBC
               (9a)         aaSBCBC
               (9b)         aaabCBCBC
               (9c)         aaabDBCBC
               (9d)         aaabDCCBC
               (9e)         aaabBCCBC
               (9f)         aaabbCCBC
               (9c)         aaabbCDBC
               (9d)         aaabbCDCC
               (9e)         aaabbCBCC
               (9c)         aaabbDBCC
               (9d)         aaabbDCCC
               (9e)         aaabbBCCC
               (9f)         aaabbbCCC
               (9g)         aaabbbdCC
               (9g)         aaabbbddC
               (9g)         aaabbbddd
```

Type 1 grammars are said to have difficulty representing sentences that have similar meanings with similar structures:

(10)   "John ate an apple."
              "Did John eat an apple?"
              "What did John eat?"

There are also cases where type 1 grammars represent sentences with different meanings as having similar structures:

(11)   "The picture was painted by a new technique."
              "The picture was painted by a new artist."

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Type 2 Grammars

Type 2 grammars are those in which each production rule has only a single nonterminal symbol on its left-hand side. In type 2 grammars, rewrite rules specify replacements for symbols without regard to what presently precedes or follows the symbol (i.e. the symbol's `context'). These grammars, therefore, are context-free grammars.

The following is a type 2 (context-free) grammar:

(12a)	S -> BC	(12e)	F -> a
(12b)	B -> DE	(12f)	E -> b
(12c)	C -> FB	(12g)	E -> c
(12d)	C -> F	(12h)	D -> d

"dbadc" is a string that is derivable from this grammar.

Type 2 grammars are considered insufficient for describing natural, human language because they cannot produce strings of the form: a1 a2 ... an b1 b2 ... bn, where each ai corresponds in some way to bi. Thus, type 2 grammars cannot handle the use of the word `respectively', as in:

(13) "Randy, Ken, and Charlotte are a doctor, a nurse, and a philosopher, respectively."

Type 3 Grammar

The rewrite rules of type 3 grammars, in addition to the restrictions imposed by virtue of their membership in the set of type 2 grammars, consist, on the right-hand side, of a single terminal symbol

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or a terminal symbol followed by a single nonterminal symbol. This, most restrictive of the grammar types, is called a regular grammar.

A simple example of a type 3 grammar is shown below:

(14a)	S -> aS
(14b)	S -> aT
(14c)	T -> b
(14d)	T -> bT

The string "aaaabbb" is derivable from this sample grammar.

The restrictions on type 3 grammars are such that they prohibit building any self-embedded construct. Self-embedding would be produced by a production rule of the form B -> MBN, where B represents a non-terminal symbol and, M and N are non-empty strings of symbols. A sequence such as this is presumed by some to be necessary, in the context of Natural Language, for dealing with center embedding. Clauses with the structure of a sentence can be nested within a larger sentence structure to form embedded sentences.

(15) "Mary disliked the fact that Sam tortured her pet anteater"

is an example of a sentence with an embedded sentence. It can be embedded within another:

(16)   "Bill spread the rumor that Mary disliked the fact
                         that Sam tortured her pet anteater."

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Center embedding in a sentence is the result of the modification of a noun group by a clause with a sentence-like structure (noun group followed by a verb) where the noun group of the clause is modified by a similarly structured clause. An example from [Chomsky, 1965] is:

(17)   "The man who the boy who the students recognized
                    pointed out is a friend."

Broken into segments, the sentence means:

        The man is a friend.
        He was pointed out by the boy.
        The boy is that particular one that the students recognized.

Center embedding can make sentences quite difficult to understand, especially if the embedding is done more than once. However in principle they are grammatical. Often in normal language usage, the relative marker ("which", "who", "whom", or "that") marking the start of the relative clause is left out of the sentence. Another example of center embedding is:

(18) "The rat the cat the dog chased bit died."

There is plenty of controversy about which class or classes of grammars are sufficient for describing natural language. The arguments, given above, against the applicability of type 1, 2, and 3 grammars are quite well-known and widely held to be valid. Gerald Gazdar's arguments to the contrary can be found in any of the referenced materials by Gerald Gazdar (see reference list at the end of this report) and

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[Sampson; 1983]. (Also, see [Pullum; 1984].)

Type 1 and type 2 grammar rules break sentences into a hierarchy of smaller and smaller constituents. They can be used to display the structure of a sentence as a tree, with each `node' expanding into one or more branches (never drawing nodes together into a smaller number of symbols). Each node of the tree and the structure below it represent a syntactically significant part of the sentence called a _phrase marker_ or _P-marker_. For example, the syntactic structure of "The cat likes the mouse" may be displayed by:

```
                        S
                 _____/ _____
               NP                VP
              / \              __/  \__
           Det    N          V          NP
            |     |          |          / \
           the   cat       likes     Det    N
                                      |      |
                                     the    mouse
```
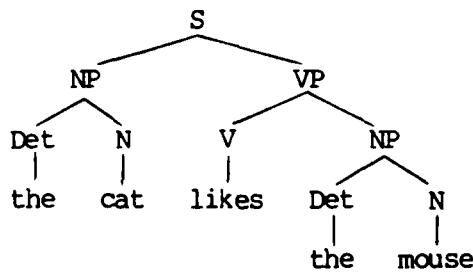
Figure 11
Syntactic Structure of "The cat likes the mouse."

Here, phrase markers predict that "likes the" is not syntactically significant, but "the cat" and "likes the mouse" are.

Because they display the "phrase structure" of sentences, type 1 and type 2 grammars are called _phrase structure grammars_. Phrase structure grammars are also referred to as _immediate constituent grammars_, indicating that each node is an "immediate constituent" or "child" of the node above it in the tree.

2. Transformational Grammar

Transformational Grammar Theory was introduced by Noam Chomsky in
Syntactic Structures [Chomsky; 1957] and revised in Aspects of the
Theory of Syntax [Chomsky; 1965]. This revised model is widely referred
to as the Standard Theory of Transformational Grammar and is the version
of Transformational Grammar described here.

Traditionally, research has focused on the structure of sentences
as they appear, for instance, on paper. Grammar rules are used to
specify the structure of each sentence. With Transformational Grammar,
Chomsky proposed using grammars to exhibit the derivation process of
human language: the knowledge and rules that humans use to create and
understand utterances. Because it attempts to describe the knowledge
and rules that `generate' natural language, Transformational Grammar is
a generative grammar and is often called Transformational Generative
Grammar.

The derivation of a sentence, in Transformational Grammar, takes
place in two phases. The initial phase uses a phrase structure grammar
to generate a level of linguistic structure called the deep structure of
the sentence. The deep structure is a representation of the full
meaning of the sentence, with all of its intended nuances.

Consider the following sentences (example from [Winograd;1983]):

(19a)   "Sam is easy to satisfy."
(19b)   "Sam is eager to satisfy."

While these sentences have superficial similarities, a reader is immediately aware of the different relationships presented. In the first sentence, Sam is the person who can be satisfied. The one who acts to satisfy him is unidentified. In the second sentence, Sam is the person who does the `satisfying' and an unidentified person benefits. The syntactic structures of the surface manifestations of these sentences, as shown below, do not exhibit this difference.

```
            S                              S
          /   \                          /   \
        NP     VP                      NP     VP
         \    /|\                       \    /|\
          N Aux Adj  S                   N Aux Adj   S
          |  |   |  / \                  |  |   |   / \
         Sam is easy Prt Verb          Sam is eager Prt Verb
                     |    |                          |    |
                     to satisfy                      to satisfy
```
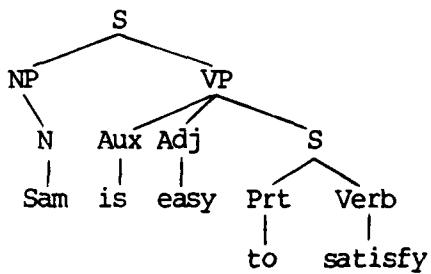
Figure 12
Surface Structure of
"Sam is easy to satisfy."
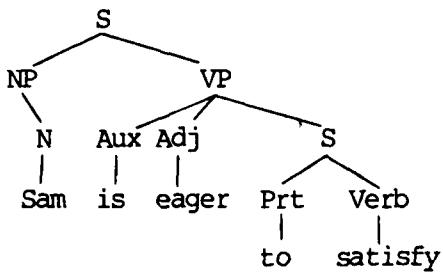
Figure 13
Surface Structure of
"Sam is eager to satisfy."

The proposed deep structures for the sentences, shown in Figures 14 and 15, display the different meanings of the sentences.

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S
S   VP
NP   VP   Verb Adj
Det N   Verb   NP   is   easy
some one satisfy N
                  Sam

S
NP   VP
N   Aux Adj   S
Sam is eager NP   VP
               N   Verb   NP
               Sam satisfy Det N
                           some one
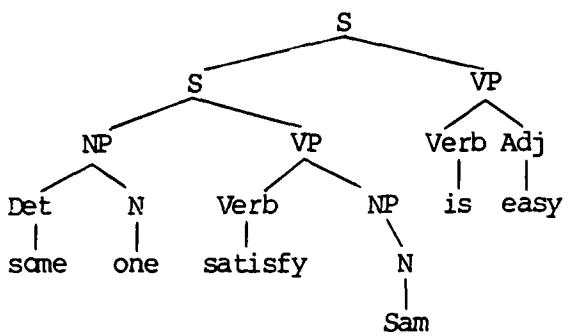
Figure 14
Deep Structure of
"Sam is easy to satisfy."
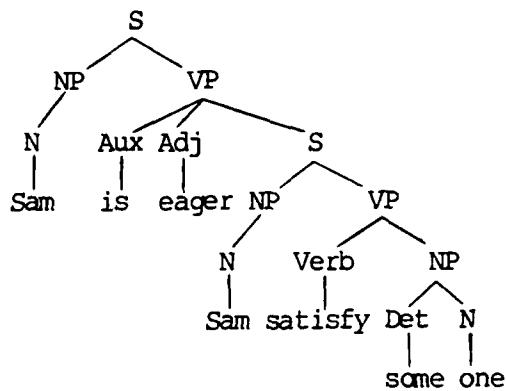
Figure 15
Deep Structure of
"Sam is eager to satisfy."

Transformational Grammar postulates that two sentences with similar surface structures and differing implications may have differed significantly earlier in their derivation. Conversely, two sentences may have underlying similarities that are not apparent in their surface manifestations.

In contrast to other phrase structure grammars, the rules in the first phase of Transformational Grammar rarely introduce words into the phrase structure. Rewrite rules such as "V -> shout" and "N -> boy" are eliminated. In their place are rules which form strings of complex symbols, such as [+Common] and [-Human], depicting syntactic "features" of the concepts they represent. These symbols act as <u>selectional restrictions</u>, placing restrictions on which words may fill positions in the phrase structure.

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A feature with a plus (+) sign implies that a concept has that
feature. A minus (-) sign implies that the concept is without that
feature. Thus, the set of features [+N, +Common] implies a common noun
such as "boy" or "book", whereas [+N, -Common] implies a proper noun
such as "John" or "Egypt". [+Count] or [-Count] specifies a "countable"
(for example, "dog") or "non-countable" (for example, "dirt") concept.

The following might be among the rules of a grammar [Chomsky;
1965]:

(20a)   N -> [+N, +/-Common]
(20b)   [+Common] -> [+/-Count]
(20c)   [+Count] -> [+/-Animate]
(20d)   [-Common] -> [+/-Animate]
(20e)   [+Animate] -> [+/-Human]
(20f)   [-Count] -> [+/-Abstract]

The first rule will rewrite the symbol N as either of the complex
symbols [+N, +Common] or [+N, -Common]. If N is rewritten as [+N,
+Common], then the second rule states that either [+Count] or [-Count]
is to be added to the set of complex symbols. This continues, building
a set of complex symbols at each terminal node of the phrase structure.

To complete the phrase structure, each set of complex symbols is
matched against the sets of complex symbols in the lexicon. Each item
in the lexicon, or dictionary, of Transformational Grammar consists of a
word and its description in terms of its syntactic features. When a set
of complex symbols from the phrase structure matches a set from the
lexicon, the associated word may be added to the phrase structure as the

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terminal node. Items in the lexicon of a Transformational Grammar might look like:

(21a)   (sincerity, [+N, -Count, +Abstract])
(21b)   (boy, [+N, +Count, +Common, +Animate, +Human])

In the second phase of Transformational Grammar special rules operate on the deep structure to produce the surface manifestation, called the _surface_ _structure_, of the sentence. These special rules, called _transformations_, can each do one or more of the following elementary operations: they can move (reorder) phrase markers from one part of the structure to another, they can add copies of existing phrase markers to the structure, they can insert new structure, or they can delete structure. Transformations are applied one after the other in a strict order. Each consists of a pattern that must be matched by some cross-section of the phrase structure tree in order to be applicable, and a pattern defining the result of using the transformation. Some rules are obligatory (if they are applicable they must be run) and others are optionally applied. Thus, the specific surface structure derived from a deep structure is determined by whatever optional transformations are used. The structures that make up the deep structure of a sentence are sometimes referred to as the _underlying_ _phrase_ _markers_. When a transformation operates on the underlying phrase markers, the results are called _derived_ _phrase_ _markers_. These are transformed into other derived phrase markers, and so on, until all of the obligatory and the selected set of optional rules are run. The surface structure or _final_ _derived_ _phrase_ _marker_ results.

To illustrate the transformational process, observe the application of the optional Passive Transformation Rule as shown below:

(22)　　PASSIVE RULE:

$$\frac{\text{NP} - \text{Aux} - \text{V} - \text{NP}}{1 \qquad 2 \qquad 3 \qquad 4}$$

$$\boxed{4 \quad 2 \text{ be en } 3 \text{ by } 1}$$
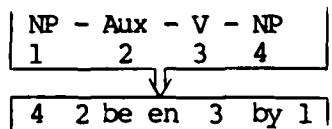
The pattern to match in order to apply this rule is NP - Aux - V - NP. The numbers are for easy referencing of the phrase markers. The Passive Transformation rule is applicable to the phrase structure of, "The Colts have beaten the Jets", shown below (Figure 16):

```
                          S
          - - - - - - - NP            VP
                      /    \        /    \
                   Det      N    Aux - - - V - - - - - NP - - - - -
                    |       |     |        |        /      \
                   the    Colts  have    beaten   Det       N
                                                   |        |
                                                  the      Jets
```
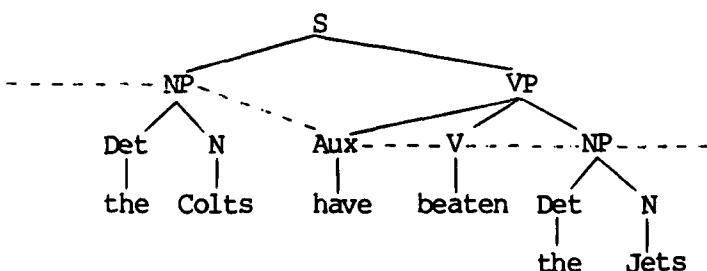
Figure 16
Syntactic Structure of "The Colts have beaten the Jets."   *

The phrases are matched as follows:

(23)　　　　　　　　the Colts　　have　　beaten　　the Jets
　　　　　　　　　　　　1　　　　　2　　　　3　　　　　4

----

* The intermediate level of complex symbols is not shown.

and transformed into:

(24)   4   2   be en   3   by   1
           the Jets   have   been   beaten   by   the Colts

A list of the names of the transformational rules and the ordering
proposed for rule application is included as Appendix A to this report.
In-depth explanations of each can be found in [Akmajian and Heny; 1975].

Transformational Grammar Theory attempts to describe human
`generation' of Natural Language. Theoretically, inverse
Transformational rules can reverse the process, transforming the surface
structure of an utterance into its deep structure in order to "parse"
the input.

While focusing its attention on the process as recounted here,
Transformational Grammar Theory also makes a brief statement about how
humans use the structures produced. The deep structure is proposed as
the input to a human semantic component where semantic interpretation
rules operate to derive a meaning representation. The surface structure
is the proposed input to a phonological component where the
pronunciation of the utterance is defined.

3. Modifications to the Standard Theory of Transformational
    Grammar

Since the introduction of the Standard Theory of Transformational
Grammar a number of modifications and extensions have been proposed. As
you will see from the brief descriptions of some of the modifications,

many of the changes came about from a desire to more fully account for semantic issues.

Extended Standard Theory (EST)

In the Standard Theory of Transformational Grammar, semantic interpretation rules operate on a single tree representation of the syntactic stucture of a sentence, the deep structure, to produce its semantic interpretation. Thus, as stated by the Katz-Postal Hypothesis (1964), transformations must be meaning-preserving. The application of transformations could not affect the semantic interpretation of a sentence. Soon after the introduction of the Standard Theory however, critics pointed out that meaning could be affected by the application of some transformations. As an example, the following pair of sentences, with obviously differing implications, would derive from the same deep structure:

(25) Not many arrows hit the target.
      Many arrows didn't hit the target.

The Extended Standard Theory of Transformational Grammar proposed that semantic interpretation rules operate on the entire set of trees developed during the transformational process, rather than on the single, deep structure.

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Generative Semantics

Proponents of Generative Semantics contend that the structure
produced in the first phase of the Standard Theory, rather than being
strictly a syntactic structure, is a semantic representation of the
sentence. Transformational rules, as in the Standard Theory, operate to
transform the base structure into its surface syntactic representation.
The name `Generative Semantics' is derived from the viewpoint that
language is generated from a semantic component.

The semantic base structure of Generative Semantics has a formal
nature similar to a syntactic phrase structure representation in that it
can be represented in tree form. The labels on its non-terminal nodes
are some of the same categories as those used in syntactic tree
structures (ie. S, NP,...), although presumed to be fewer in number.
The terminal nodes of the base structure are semantically interpretable
terms, similar to symbolic logic terms, instead of words. During the
transformational process the terminal nodes may combine in a manner
similar to symbolic logic processing.

Montague Grammar

The Montague Grammar formalism was devised by logician Richard
Montague. The first phase of Montague Grammar uses a categorial grammar
to construct the phrase structure representation of a sentence. A
categorial grammar is a representation system for context-free grammars.
A syntactic formula (rather than a single, syntactic class) is

associated with each word in a categorial grammar dictionary. The grammaticality and syntactic structure of a sentence is determined by combining the formulas associated with each of its words using specified ordering and cancellation properties. For example, assume a noun, such as "gasoline", is expressed with the simple formula N and an intransitive verb, such as "explodes", is expressed as S/N. Then "gasoline explodes" is N x (S/N) or, by cancellation, S (a sentence). A transitive verb might have the formula (S/N)/N, implying it is something that combines with a noun (the `object' of a sentence) to produce an intransitive verb.

In Montague Grammar, rules representing semantic information are associated with each syntactic formula. In its second phase, the rules associated with each node of the syntactic tree tell how to combine semantically interpretable logic statements to form a single, formal logic representation of a sentence's meaning. The difficult notation and very formal nature of the combining mechanism (intensional logic) is quite intimidating. However the basic gist of Montague Grammar is evident in the following extremely simplified version of the process.

A noun phrase in Montague Grammar is represented by the set of properties of the entity which it describes. Thus, the noun phrase "Bill" is represented by the set of properties of the entity Bill. (Anything that is true of Bill is part of the description of what Bill is.) If the facts that Bill sleeps, talks, has blond hair and blue eyes, are represented as:

```
(26)     (sleeps Bill)
         (talks Bill)
         (blond Bill)
         (blue-eyed Bill)
```

then this is the set (or subset) of properties that represent the noun phrase "Bill".

Intransitive verbs in the Montague formalism are represented by sets of entities. "Sleeps", for example, has as its meaning the set of entities that sleep:

```
(27)     (sleeps Bill)
         (sleeps Joe)
         (sleeps Jill)
              .
              .
              .
```

In this example, the entity "Bill" is represented as the set of all predicates X such that (X Bill), and "sleeps" is represented as the set of all entities Y such that (sleeps Y). Now, the rule for combining the representation for the noun phrase "Bill" with that of the verb "sleeps" produces (sleeps Bill), or "Bill sleeps".

Montague Grammar is primarily concerned with assigning truth values to simple declarative sentences in models of the world. Hence, the final result of our simplified example is particularly fortuitous since the truth value of "Bill sleeps" can be determined by searching for its representation, "(sleeps Bill)", in the database representation of the state of the world.

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Trace Theory

In <u>Trace Theory</u>, transformational rules are greatly reduced in
number and complexity from those in the Standard Theory. The
transformations that remain (there are only one or two) move structure
from one position in the syntactic tree to another.

Surface structure representations of sentences in Trace Theory
contain placeholders, called <u>traces</u>, that mark positions where structure
was moved from at some time during the transformational process. A
pointer from each trace indicates the moved item that it represents.

The surface structure of the sentence "What did John give to Sue",
according to Trace Theory, is derived from the structure of "John did
give what to Sue" shown in Figure 17. *

A "Move" transformation moves "what" to the Complement position and
leaves behind a trace (t), as shown in Figure 18.

---

* This is unusual phrasing but serves as a very simple example. Think
of this transformation as changing "John did give something to Sue" to
"What did John give to Sue".
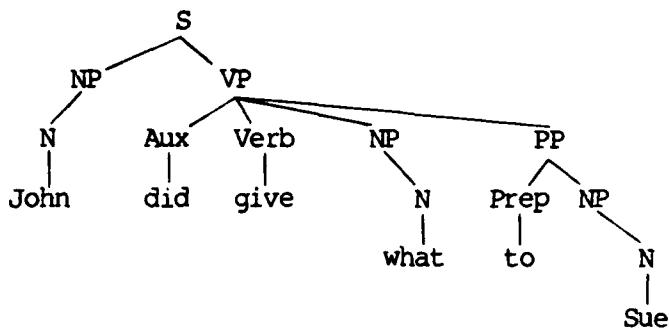
Figure 17
Syntactic Structure of "John did give what to Sue."
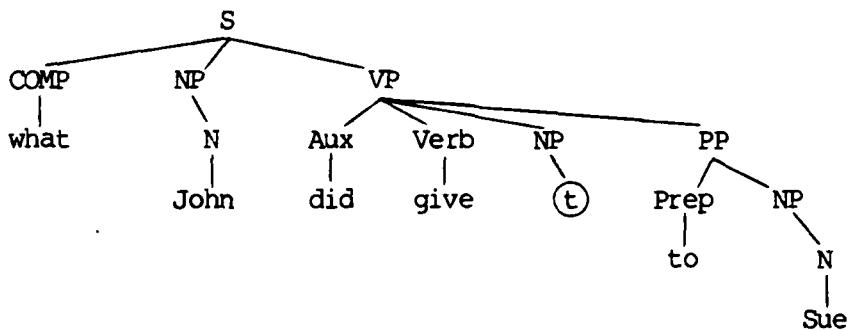
Figure 18
Syntactic Structure of "What did John give to Sue?"

Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (GPSG)

Transformational Grammar was developed in response to what was
widely seen as the inadequacy of phrase structure grammars for the
description of natural language. However some researchers have recently
presented counter-arguments to criticisms of the phrase structure
grammar formalism. Most notably, Gerald Gazdar of the University of
Sussex maintains that none of the arguments against phrase structure
grammars are valid, and offers an extended interpretation of such

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grammars. This interpretation, called <u>Generalized Phrase Structure</u>
<u>Grammar (GPSG)</u>, includes the use of complex symbols as in
Transformational Grammar, rule schemata, and meta-rules. Rule schemata
are patterns of rules. They present sets of rules, which have some
common property, as a single statement. For example, the rule:

(28) * -> * "and" *, where * is any category

represents:

(29)   NP -> NP "and" NP
         VP -> VP "and" VP
         N -> N "and" N
                    .
                    .
                    .

A metarule is a rule which creates new phrase structure rules from
rules which already exist. If a grammar contains the following set of
rules:

(30)   VP -> V NP
         VP -> V NP NP
         VP -> V NP PP
         VP -> V NP VP

then the following metarule, where W represents any category:

(31)   VP -> V NP W   =>   VP[PAS] -> V W PP

adds these rules to the grammar:

(32)   VP[PAS] -> V PP
         VP[PAS] -> V NP PP
         VP[PAS] -> V PP PP
         VP[PAS] -> V VP PP

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As in Montague Grammar, semantic rules are associated with each syntactic rule and operate in parallel to the syntactic analysis to create the semantic representation of a sentence.

Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG)

The context-free grammar and the dictionary of a Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG) have an equation associated with each grammar rule and each dictionary entry. The first phase of an LFG generates a phrase structure tree from the grammar, with the leaf nodes of the tree selected from the dictionary. Next, the equations associated with each node of the phrase structure and each lexical entry are used to produce a representation of the sentence called the "functional structure".

The sample LFG rules shown in Figure 19 and the sample dictionary items displayed in Figure 20 are from [Winograd; 1983]. The parse of "A girl handed the baby the toys" would produce the phrase structure tree of Figure 21. Note that a unique variable is assigned to each `pre-lexical' tree node.

$$S \longrightarrow \quad \underset{(\uparrow \text{Subject}) = \downarrow}{NP} \quad \underset{\uparrow = \downarrow}{VP}$$

$$NP \longrightarrow Det \quad Noun$$

$$VP \longrightarrow \underset{\uparrow = \downarrow}{Verb} \left(\underset{(\uparrow \text{Object}) = \downarrow}{NP} \left(\underset{(\uparrow \text{Object2}) = \downarrow}{NP} \right) \right)$$

Figure 19
Sample Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG) Rules

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```
a       Det     ( ↑ Definiteness) = Indefinite
                ( ↑ Number) = Singular

baby    Noun    ( ↑ Number) = Singular
                ( ↑ Predicate) = `Baby'

girl    Noun    ( ↑ Number) = Singular
                ( ↑ Predicate) = `Girl'

handed  Verb    ( ↑ Tense) = Past
                ( ↑ Predicate) = `Hand<( ↑ Subject),
                                         ( ↑ Object),
                                         ( ↑ Object2)>'

the     Det     ( ↑ Definiteness) = Definite

toys    Noun    ( ↑ Number) = Plural
                ( ↑ Predicate) = `Toy'
```

Figure 20
Sample Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG) Lexicon
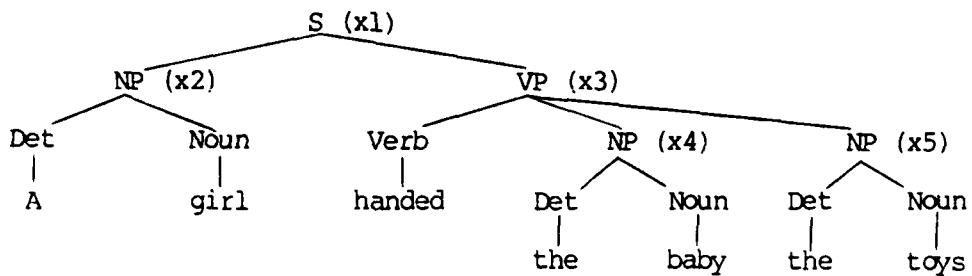
Figure 21
Syntactic Structure of "A girl handed the baby the toys."

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In the second phase of the analysis process, equations associated with the rules which were used to derive the phrase structure tree are "instantiated": the up-arrows ("↑") are replaced by the variable at the node where the grammar rule was applied, and each down-arrow ("↓") is replaced by the variable at the node associated with the symbol under which the equation appears. With reference to our example, the equations associated with the topmost (S) node of the phrase structure tree derive from the grammar rule:

(33)
$$S \longrightarrow \quad NP \qquad VP$$
$$(\uparrow \text{ Subject}) = \downarrow \qquad \uparrow = \downarrow$$

Here, the up-arrow is replaced by x1 (representing the node S of the phrase structure), the first down-arrow is replaced by x2 (representing the NP of the phrase structure), and the second down-arrow becomes x3 (the VP node). The instantiated equations for the S node then, are:

(34)
and
$$(x1 \text{ Subject}) = x2$$
$$x1 = x3$$

The equations associated with each lexical entry are somewhat similarly instantiated, however the up-arrow is replaced by the variable representing the parent of the parent node (two nodes up), and the down-arrow is replaced by the variable of the parent node of the lexical entry. Thus, instantiated equations for `baby' are "(x4 Number) = Singular" and "(x4 Predicate) = `Baby'".

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The system of equations derived from the second phase of analysis is then "solved", producing a single functional structure representing the sentence. The functional structure produced for "A girl handed the baby the toys" is shown in Figure 22. If there is no solution for the system of equations produced then the sentence is ungrammatical. More than one solution implies that the sentence is ambiguous. (For full details of this example see pages 334 - 338 of [Winograd; 1983].)

"A girl handed
    the baby the toys" =

```
+-----------------------------------------------------------+
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                     | Definiteness = Indefinite     |     |
|         Subject =   | Number = Singular             |     |
|                     | Predicate = `Girl'            |     |
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                                                           |
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                     | Definiteness = Definite       |     |
|         Object =    | Number = Singular             |     |
|                     | Predicate = `Baby'            |     |
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                                                           |
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                     | Definiteness = Definite       |     |
|         Object2 =   | Number = Plural               |     |
|                     | Predicate = `Toy'             |     |
|                     +-------------------------------+     |
|                                                           |
|         Tense = Past                                      |
|         Predicate = `Hand<Girl, Baby, Toy>'               |
+-----------------------------------------------------------+
```
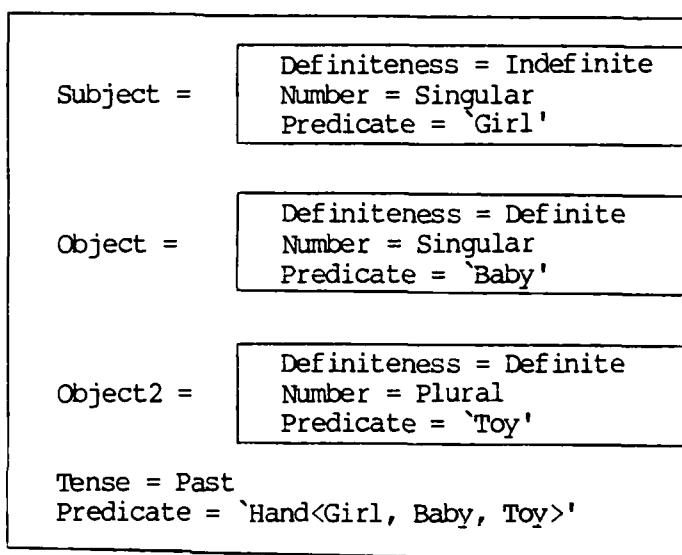
Figure 22
Functional Structure for "A girl handed the baby the toys."

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B. <u>Tools and Techniques for Implementing Syntactic Analyzers</u>

Various techniques for representing and maintaining the details of
the syntactic analysis of sentences are in current use. A number of
them are described here:

<u>Augmented Transition Networks (ATN)</u>

An <u>Augmented Transition Network (ATN)</u> is a formalism for
representing syntactic grammars. An ATN consists of a set of nodes,
representing states of the parse, and directed arcs which connect the
nodes into networks. These networks of nodes are "augmented" with
conditions and actions attached to the arcs, and "registers" which may
be used to store intermediate results of the parse. The conditions (or
tests) associated with each arc determine whether or not a transition
may be made to the next node. Often, transitioning through an arc
requires that a subnetwork be satisfied. Actions associated with arcs
are executed when transitions are made through the arcs. An input
sequence to an ATN is deemed to be a sentence if, beginning at the
(unique) start state, an analysis of the input leads to a (not
necessarily unique) final state of the network.

As stated in section III of this report, there are often occasions
during the parsing process when two or more grammar rules are
applicable. Similarly, ATNs often have two or more paths away from a
node. Most implementations of ATN parsers can select a path with the
option of later backtracking and selecting a different path should the

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first prove unsuccessful.

Following part of a parse will demonstrate the ATN concept. A
small dictionary, a set of Registers, and a network with associated
Conditions and Actions are displayed in Figures 23, 24, and 25. Note
that any arc labeled "JUMP" is automatically satisfied. For the sake of
brevity and clarity assume that the correct choice is made at each
instance in which there are multiple possible paths.

Word	Category	Features
a	Det	Number: Singular
black	Adj	
cat	Noun	Number: Singular
chased	Verb	Transitivity: Transitive; Tense: Past
fish	Noun	Number: Singular or Plural
	Verb	Transitivity: Intransitive
girls	Noun	Number: Plural
mouse	Noun	Number: Singular
saw	Noun	Number: Singular
	Verb	Transitivity: Transitive
the	Det	
these	Det	Number: Plural

Figure 23
Sample ATN Dictionary Entries

Subject: _____

Number: _____

Main-Verb: _____

Auxiliaries: _____

Direct-Object: _____

Figure 24
Sample ATN Registers

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Start at node "a". Assume the input sentence is, "The black cat chased a mouse".

The S Network:

The only route away from node "a" connects to node "b" and has no associated pre-Conditions to satisfy. Crossing the arc requires the satisfaction of the NP subnetwork, ie. finding a noun phrase at the beginning of the sentence. Consider the S network to be temporarily "on hold" and move to node "d" of the NP network.

The NP Network:

There are two paths away from node "d". One, the "JUMP" arc, takes us directly to node "e" with no pre-Conditions, no follow-up Actions, and, importantly, no matching of input. The other path has no pre-Conditions but requires that the first word of the input sentence be a determiner. After following the latter of the two paths to node "e" the remaining input is "black cat chased a mouse". The Action associated with the just-crossed path says to set the Number register to be the same as the Number feature associated with "the current constituent". The dictionary does not associate a Number feature with the word "the", so the Number register remains empty. At node "e" there are again two possible paths. Follow the path from "e" back to "e". There were no pre-Conditions for this arc. The adjective "black" has been matched and the input remaining

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Arc-associated Actions and Conditions:

S: ⟨NP⟩   ⟨VP⟩   a-NP-b (From node "a" to node "b")
                                       Action: Set Subject to
   (a)   (b)   (c)   current constituent.

_____

NP: Det   Noun   d-Det-e
                                       Action: Set Number to the Number
   (d)   (e)   (f)   of the current constituent.

      [Jump]   Adj   e-Noun-f
                                       Condition: Number is empty or Number
                                                  matches the Number of the
                                                  current constituent.
                                       Action: Set Number to the Number of
                                               the current constituent.

_____

VP: V   ⟨NP⟩   g-V-h
                                       Action: Set Main-Verb to current
   (g)   (h)   (j)   constituent.

      V   [Jump]   h-V-h

                                       Condition: The Main-Verb is form
                                                  of Be, Do, or Have.
                                       Action: Add contents of Main-Verb
                                               to Auxiliaries.
                                               Set Main-Verb to current
                                               constituent.

                               h-NP-j
                                       Action: Set Direct-Object to
                                               current constituent.

Figure 25
Sample Augmented Transition Network

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is, "cat chased a mouse". At the present state of the parse we are
at node "e" and, as before, there are two paths leading away. The
pre-Condition on the arc to node "f" requires that the Number
register be empty (which it is) or that the contents of the Number
register match the Number feature of the current constituent "cat".
This pre-Condition is satisfied, follow the path to node "f". The
Action required after crossing to node "f" sets the Number register
to "Singular", the Number feature for "cat". Now the NP subnetwork
has been satisfied.

- return to the S network:

In the S network, we are now allowed to move from node "a" to node
"b". The Action associated with this move sets the Subject register to
the noun phrase "the black cat". The single path leading from node "b"
requires that the VP subnetwork be satisfied, so, as before, the S
network will be put "on hold".

The parsing process would proceed by transitioning through the VP
network, then returning to toplevel, the S network, where the parse is
considered successful upon reaching node "c".

James Thorne, Paul Bratley, and Hamish Dewar [Thorne, et al; 1968]
are credited with the development of the ATN mechanism. Its use was
demonstrated and popularized by William Woods' LUNAR system.

Chart Parsing

Charts are used to keep track of the syntactic parse in progress. Charts record syntactic constituents found so far.

A chart is a network of vertices linked by edges. Each edge represents a constituent part of the input; its vertices define the beginning and the end of the constituent. A chart parse begins with a structure containing only the individual words of an input as its edges. Thus, the initial chart formed for the parse of "The black cat bit the dog" is shown in Figure 26, below.

```
      the    black   cat   bit   the   dog
   0——0———0——0———0——0——0
```
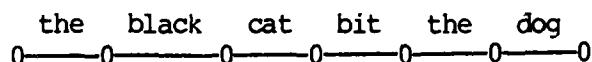
Figure 26

Next, edges labeled with the lexical category of each word are added. (See Figure 27. Note that "bit" can be either a noun or a verb.)

```
      Det    Adj    Noun   Noun   Det   Noun
     ⌒     ⌒    ⌒   ⌒   ⌒   ⌒
   the │ black │ cat │ bit │ the │ dog │
   0———0———0———0———0———0———0
                         ⌣
                        Verb
```
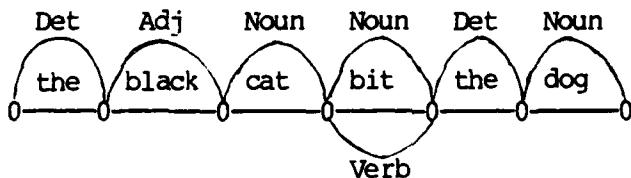
Figure 27

During the parse, a new edge is added to the chart whenever a new constituent is found. If the rules "NP -> Det Noun",
"NP -> Det Adj Noun", and "NP -> Det Adj Noun Noun" are included in the grammar, the chart structure shown in Figure 28 will be constructed for our example.
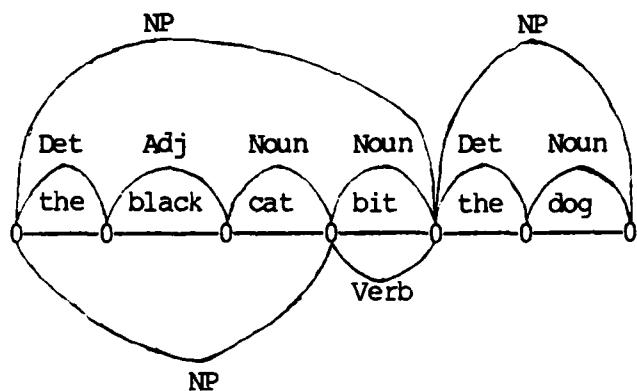
Figure 28

A successful parse of a sentence *is found when an edge extends from* the first vertice to the last. More than one such edge indicates ambiguous input.

The chart constructed for "the black cat bit the dog" is shown in Figure 29. This analysis indicates the syntactic structure of the sentence to be as shown in Figure 30.

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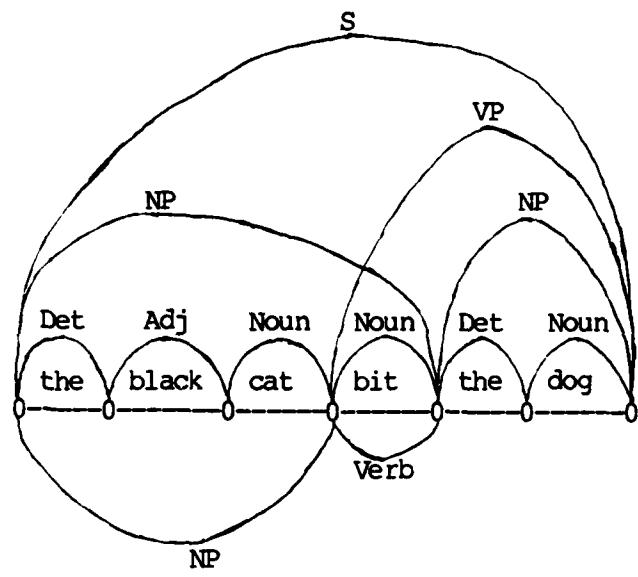
Figure 29

Figure 30

- 53 -
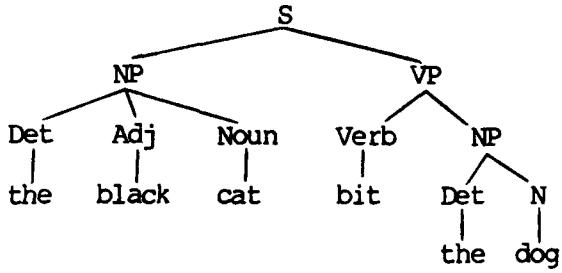
Chart parsing, as described here, only keeps track of grammar rules that succeed. Active chart parsers, on the other hand, keep track not only of rules that succeed but of all rules that have been tried. Active chart parsers have active edges and inactive (or complete) edges. Inactive edges represent whole constituents and indicate that a grammar rule has succeeded. An active edge represents the start of an incomplete constituent and would be represented by an arc that is anchored to the base line at only one end. The label on an active edge includes its "remainder", that is, the parts that need to be found in order to complete an edge.

The earliest use of chart parsing in a practical system was in the MIND system [Kay; 1973] for machine translation. MCHART [Thompson; 1983] is a system for constructing chart parsing systems.

Definite Clause Grammars (DCG)

Context-free grammar rules may be expressed in the form of logic statements called definite clauses. The resulting grammar is called a Definite Clause Grammar (DCG). DCGs are often implemented computationally in the logic programming language Prolog. In fact, most implementations of Prolog include a grammar rule interpreter which automatically translates a grammar rule into executable code. Thus,

(35) "sentence ⟶ noun_phrase, verb_phrase."

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will be automatically translated to:

(36) "sentence(S0,S) :- noun_phrase(S0,S1), verb_phrase(S1,S)."

Appendix C contains a sample, very small, DCG grammar from
[Clocksin and Mellish;1981]. CHAT-80, a prototype natural language
question-answering system based on the DCG formalism, is described in
[Warren and Pereira;1982].

V. Other Processing Techniques

"Other" processing techniques are those in which the syntax of the
input is not the main focus of the analysis. The simplest such
technique uses a keyword and simple pattern matching scheme. The method
and a very well-known implementation of it are described below:

A. Keyword/Simple Pattern Matching Systems

Some functionality, although limited, is offered by systems which
do simple matching of patterns against inputs. The particular pattern
which is matched determines the response that will be given. No real
analysis of input is done by these simple systems. A well-known example
of such a system, called ELIZA, was developed by Joseph Weizenbaum
[Weizenbaum; 1966].

In dialog with a human, ELIZA simulates a Rogerian psychotherapist.
Responses from the system are meant to appear to be leading the patient

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(the person typing keyboard inputs to the system) towards self-discovery of truths about themselves. A typical conversation is shown below:

(37)   PATIENT: Men are all alike.
        ELIZA: In what way

        PATIENT: They're always bugging us about something or other.
        ELIZA: Can you think of a specific example

        PATIENT: Well, my boyfriend made me come here.
        ELIZA: Your boyfriend made you come here

        PATIENT: He says I'm depressed much of the time.
        ELIZA: I am sorry to hear you are depressed

ELIZA inspects each input sentence for any of several keywords and attempts to match the input against a pattern, called a decomposition rule, containing that keyword. Thus, if the patterns associated with the keyword "remember" are "(* I remember *)" and "(* do you remember *)", where asterisks represent a sequence of zero or more words, the input "I remember when winters were harsher" would match the first pattern. The second asterisk in the pattern would match the string "when winters were harsher". (The first asterisk is matched with zero of the input words.)

Each decomposition rule has an arbitrary number of reassembly rules associated with it which describe the format for the response. Possible reassembly rules for "(* I remember *)" include: "(Do you often think of 4)", "(Does thinking of 4 bring anything else to mind)", and "(What else do you remember)". Numbers in a reassembly pattern are an index to an item obtained from the match of the input to the decomposition rule. Here, the response would be "Do you often think of when winters were

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harsher", "Does thinking of when winters were harsher bring anything else to mind", or simply "What else do you remember".

A facsimile of Weizenbaum's program can produced from the details provided in [Weizenbaum; 1966]. Another early system based on pattern matching, called SIR, is described in [Raphael; 1968].

B. Semantic Grammars

Semantic grammars are grammars that use word classes specific to the domain being discussed rather than (or in combination with) the traditional grammar classes of Noun, Verb, Noun Phrase, and so on. For instance, a system dealing with airline reservations might have as classes: Destination, Flight Number, Flight Time, etc. A semantic grammar rule for such a system might be:

S → <PLANE-ID> is <PLANE-TYPE>.

The same tools used for syntactic analysis of input, ATNs and the like (described in IV.B.), can be applied when the grammar is a semantic grammar. For example, SOPHIE, described briefly in Section II of this report, uses an ATN and a grammar based on semantic categories such as Measurement, Transistor, and Circuit Element. An ATN used with a semantic grammar is called a semantic ATN.

C. `Case'-Based, Semantic Processing

In the traditional notion of "case", different forms of a word can provide information on the role played in the sentence by the concept represented. English, for example, has a case classification system for

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pronouns. Cases are: subjective, objective, reflexive, possessive
determiner, and possessive. Hence, when referring to oneself in the
subjective case, one would use the word "I", as in: "I went to the
store". When referring to oneself objectively, one would use "me":
"Joan went with me to the store". (Reflexive, possessive determiner,
and possessive forms for the First Person Singular are, respectively:
myself, my, and mine.) These so-called syntactic (or surface) cases
vary from language to language and convey only minimal semantic
information.

In semantic case grammar theories, the existence of a small number
of universal, primitive, semantic cases is proposed. Each of the
semantic (or deep) cases are descriptive of the possible semantic
roles of a noun phrase in a sentence. The following sentences
demonstrate the idea of semantic cases:

> (38)   We baked every Wednesday evening.
>   The pecan pie baked to a golden brown.

"We" in the first sentence and "the pecan pie" in the second, hold
the same syntactic position (the initial noun phrase in a syntactic
parse), but each plays a different semantic role. "We" describes WHO
performed the action of baking; "the pecan pie" tells WHAT object the
action of baking was performed on.

The first notable presentation of (semantic) case grammars was by
Charles Fillmore in a paper entitled "The Case for Case"
[Fillmore,1968]. The primitive semantic roles proposed by Fillmore

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were:

(39) Agentive (A)
>The instigator of the action, usually animate. For example, John in "John opened the door".

Instrumental (I)
>The inanimate force or object involved in the action. The key is the Instrumental in "John opened the door with the key" and "The key opened the door".

Dative (D)
>The animate being that is affected by the action. Thus, John is the Dative in "We persuaded John that he would win".

Factive (F)
>The object that results from the action. The Factive in "We made John a jacket" is the jacket. The dream is the Factive in "John had a dream about Mary".

Locative (L)
>The location or spatial orientation of the action. Chicago is the Locative in "It is windy in Chicago".

Objective (O)
>The object affected by the action. For example, the door in "The key opened the door" and "John opened the door with the key".

According to Fillmore's Theory, each verb sense has an associated case frame describing the set of cases that appear or are optional when that verb sense is used in a sentence. For instance, the case frame for the usual sense of the word "open" would dictate that the Objective case is obligatory, but the Agentive and Instrumental cases are optional. A representation for this case frame might be: [O, (A), (I)].

Parentheses indicate optional cases. Thus, a sentence whose main verb is "open" requires a filler for the Objective case (something which is `opened'), and may or may not have fillers for the Agentive (someone who does the `opening') and Instrumental (an object with which to do the

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evidence that a filler for the Objective case is required for the word "open".

Yorick Wilks' ([Wilks; 1975]) English-to-French language translation system has a case grammar component. In the system, word senses are represented by "formulas" which can be expressed graphically with binary trees. The formula for "drink" (the action of "drinking" a liquid) is: "((*ANI SUBJ) (((FLOW STUFF) OBJE) ((SELF IN) (((*ANI (THRU PART)) TO) (BE CAUSE)))))". The tree representation is shown in Figure 31. According to the formula, the "preferred" (but not required) agent doing the drinking is animate, the object of the drinking is preferrably liquid (something that flows), the container into which the aforementioned liquid goes is the animate agent, and the direction of the action is to an aperture in the animate agent (the mouth). (In Wilks' system, verbs are not necessarily the only word senses with case preferences.) The system attempts to form a semantic representation for a sentence by meshing word sense formulas into a larger graphical structure. If more than one possible representation is formed, the one with the highest "semantic density" (the one in which the largest number of case preferences are satisfied) is assumed to be the correct representation. Acceptance of less than a perfect fit in this manner allows the system to understand non-standard word usage, as in "My car drinks gas". Wilks calls this technique for building a semantic representation Preference Semantics.
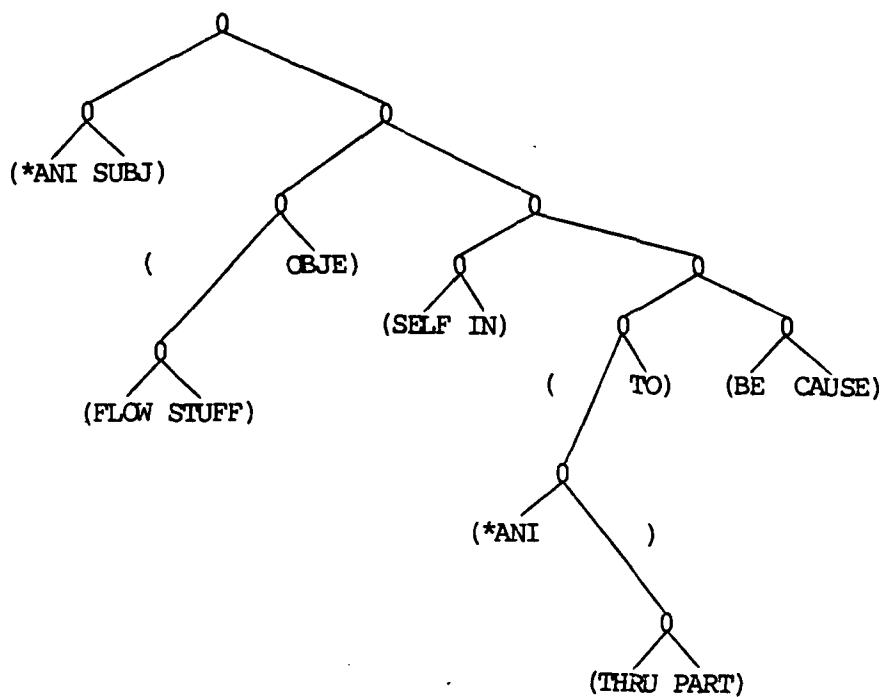
Figure 31
Tree Representation of Wilks' Formula for "drink"

Case grammar structures are present in most implementations of "semantic networks" and in turn, since it has derived from the semantic net formalism, are present in the "Conceptual Dependency" knowledge representation (see the following sections on "Semantic Networks" and "Conceptual Dependency Theory").

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1. Semantic Networks

A semantic network (or net) is a knowledge representation consisting of "nodes" and labelled, directed "arcs" (arrows). Nodes in a semantic net represent entities or concepts. The arcs (sometimes called associative links or, simply, links) represent relationships among nodes by connecting them into a network. For example, Figure 32 is a very simple semantic network made up of two nodes (representing a person named Anna and a person named Bill), and an arc indicating "Bill likes Anna". Note that "Anna likes Bill" is not a relationship which can be assumed from this network.
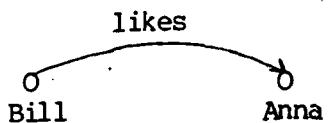
Figure 32
Semantic Network Representation of "Bill likes Anna" [Scragg; 1976]
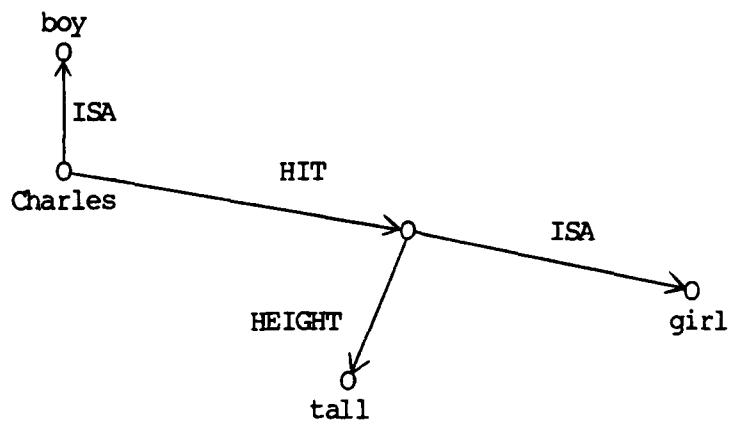
Figure 33
Sample Semantic Network

A slightly more complicated relationship is represented by the
network in Figure 33. Here, "Charles is a boy" and "Charles hit the
tall girl" are represented. Notice that the node for "the tall girl" is
an unlabelled concept. (In order to reference "the tall girl" this node
could be labelled with an arbitrary, unique symbol.) Networks can be
built up to represent very complicated sets of relationships.

The basics of the semantic net formalism have been described.
Additional functionality can be provided by organizing related concepts
in the network from the most general to the most specific. For example,
the net in Figure 34 shows that: a dog is an animal, a Schnauzer is a
type of dog, and Bert is a Schnauzer. This organization of concepts
builds an _inheritance_ _hierarchy_: anything that is true about a general
concept, unless otherwise noted specifically, is true (by default) of
the concept below it on the hierarchy. Thus, since a dog is an animal
and a Schnauzer is a dog, a Schnauzer is an animal (and Bert, because he

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is a Schnauzer, is a dog, and therefore is an animal, etc).

A further refinement of the semantic net formalism allows links to represent properties of concepts. For instance, in the network of Figure 34, NUMBER-OF-LEGS and VOCALIZATION characteristics are included as properties of dogs.
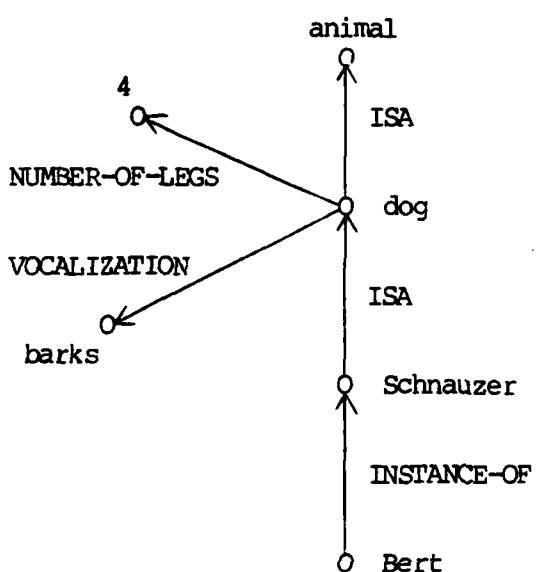
Figure 34
Another Sample Semantic Network

Inheritance of the concept properties (property inheritance) is enabled by the hierarchical organization of the network. To determine how many legs Bert has, one would look first at the Bert-node. If the NUMBER-OF-LEGS property is not present (or is present but no value is specified), the arc to the next, more general node would be traced. Since the target property is not found on the node representing "Schnauzer", one would look to the "dog" node. Here, NUMBER-OF-LEGS is

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given as 4. Thus Schnauzers, by property inheritance, have 4 legs and, (again by property inheritance) so does Bert. Properties inherited from more general classes act as default values. A value for a property may be specified at any level in the hierarchy and overrides any value for that property provided at a node which is higher in the hierarchy. Thus, if Bert happens to be a 3-legged dog, that fact can be recorded by specifying NUMBER-OF-LEGS to be 3 at the Bert node.

Notice that an INSTANCE-OF arc in Figure 34 indicates that Bert is a "specific instance" of Schnauzer. Were it not for this distinction, Bert could be mistaken for an empty subclass of Schnauzers. Some types of incorrect inferences are also avoided by this differentiation between classes and instances of things. If "Dogcatchers chase dogs" is true, then "Dogcatchers chase Schnauzers" is true, in general. However, it may not be the case that "Dogcatchers chase Bert". Nodes representing classes of objects are called type nodes. A node representing an individual is a token node.

Information is obtained from semantic networks most often by matching network patterns. For example, assume the existence of the semantic network of knowledge shown in Figure 35 (slightly altered version from [Barr and Feigenbaum; 1981], page 187).

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```
Clyde          INSTANCE-OF          Robin          ISA          bird
  Q─────────────────────────────────→Q───────────────────────→→Q


  │  OWNER


                   OWNEE            Nestl         INSTANCE-OF          nest
ownl Q─────────────────────────────→→Q──────────────────────────────→→Q


  │  INSTANCE-OF


  Y
  Q
ownership
```
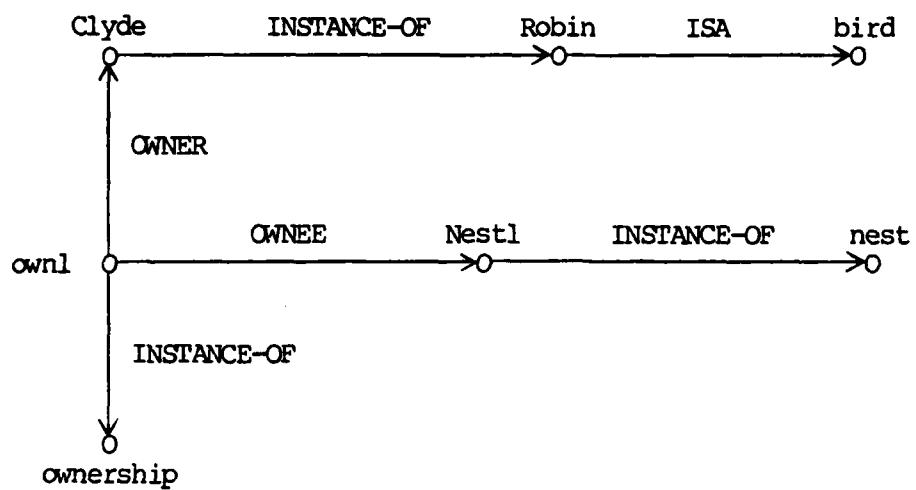
Figure 35
Semantic Network [Barr and Feigenbaum; 1981]

```
Clyde
  Q
  ▲

  │  OWNER


                   OWNEE                 X
ownl Q────────────────────────────────→Q


  │  INSTANCE-OF


  Y
  Q
ownership
```
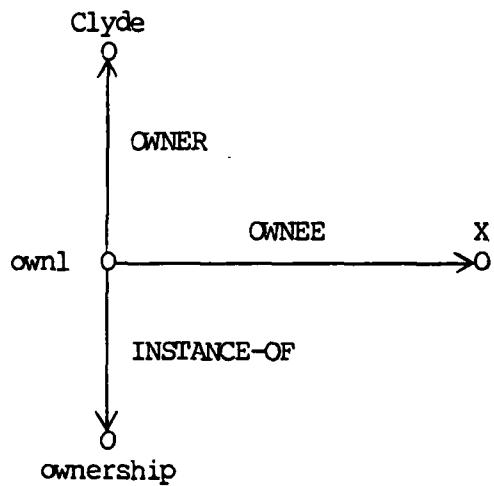
Figure 36
Semantic Network Representation of "What does Clyde own?"

In order to answer the question "What does Clyde own?", the

semantic fragment shown in Figure 36 would be constructed and matched

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against the database network providing the correct replacement for the variable X: Nestl.

Note from Figure 35 that nodes can represent more than just concrete objects, as in the "ownership" node representing a kind of relationship and the "ownl" node which represents a specific instance of ownership. These concepts may be extended by associating a "case frame" with their nodes. Such a case frame would consist of a set of outgoing arcs to descriptors of the parent node. The case frame associated with the ownership node, for example, might consist of arcs labelled "OWNER", "OWNEE", "START-TIME", and "END-TIME". This case frame could be inherited by instances of "ownership", such as "own-1", where values for these properties could be assigned or left to default to a value assigned in the "ownership" node.

The most well-known, and perhaps the first, implementation of a semantic network was Quillian's Semantic Memory ([Quillian; 1968]). Proposed by Quillian as a model of human associative memory, the program accepted two words as input and attempted to return information on their semantic similarities or differences. Beginning from the nodes representing the two input words, "tags" were placed at each node that could be reached by following arcs until a path between the two words were found. At the conclusion of this spreading activation process, the path between the words was described in the format shown for input words "cry" and "comfort" in (40), on the next page. (Selected senses of words in the intersection path are indicated by a numerical suffix, as in CRY2 meaning the second sense of "cry".)

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(40)   Input words: CRY, COMFORT

Intersection: SAD
(1)   CRY2 is among other things to make a SAD sound.
(2)   To COMFORT3 can be to MAKE2 something LESS2 SAD.

Quillian developed the Teachable Language Comprehender (TLC)
[Quillian;1969] around the concept of a semantic memory. TLC "learns"
to understand English text.

Conceptual Dependency, described next, is derived from the semantic
network formalism.

2. Conceptual Dependency (CD) Theory

The basic axiom of Conceptual Dependency (CD) Theory states: "For
any two sentences that are identical in meaning, regardless of language,
there should be only one representation" [Schank and Abelson; 1977].
Proposed by Roger Schank as a formalism for representing meaning, CD
theory attempts to represent the "conceptualizations" underlying
sentences, rather than the sentences themselves. A small number of
primitive ACTs, which are the basic meaning units for representing
actions, and an as yet unquantified number of primitive STATEs are used
to construct representations of actions in an unambiguous manner.
Current CD Theory proposes the existence of 11 primitive ACTs: ATRANS,
PTRANS, MTRANS, MBUILD, PROPEL, MOVE, INGEST, EXPEL, GRASP, SPEAK, and
ATTEND. Brief descriptions and examples of the types of events
represented by each are provided in Appendix D.

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Each primitive ACT has an associated "case frame" which describes the roles that are required for a full conceptualization of that primitive. Case frames provide information on the concepts that can be expected to appear in a sentence. These expectations help direct the parse towards a successful conclusion (expectation-driven processing).

All of the roles that are present in the case frame must be filled, none are optional. The ACTOR case is always present. Its filler tells who the performer of the action is. Other possible cases (or roles) are: OBJECT, RECIPIENT, DIRECTION, and INSTRUMENT. Since CD structures represent underlying conceptualizations, the concepts that fill the CD roles may or may not be present in their manifestations as sentences.

The representation of "John goes to New York" demonstrates the basics of CD theory as presented so far. "Going" is the transfer of the physical location of an object and, hence, is represented by a PTRANS. The ACTOR, or performer of the PTRANS, is John. The DIRECTION of the act is FROM some unknown place TO New York, and the OBJECT of the transfer of location is John. Thus, the CD representation for "John goes to New York" looks like (and is) the same as the representation for "John takes himself to New York" (see (41), below).

> (41) The CD representation of "John goes to New York".
>   [Schank and Riesbeck; 1981]
>
>   (PTRANS
>   (ACTOR John)
>   (OBJECT John)
>   (DIRECTION (FROM unknown)
>   (TO New York)))

In an actual CD implementation, role fillers in each of the examples of this section would be structures representing the concepts "John", "New York", and so on, rather than English descriptions as shown here.

Relationships among concepts are called <u>dependencies</u>. Thus, there are object dependencies, direction dependencies, etc. Progressively complex structures are formed when concepts depend on other concepts, as in the CD representation of "John saw Mary" (42).

```
(42)  CD representation of "John saw Mary".
      [Schank and Riesbeck; 1981]

          (MTRANS
              (ACTOR John)
              (OBJECT image of Mary)
              (DIRECTION (FROM John's eyes)
                         (TO MLOC(CP of John)))
              (INSTRUMENT (ATTEND
                              (ACTOR John)
                              (OBJECT eyes)
                              (DIRECTION (FROM unknown)
                                         (TO Mary)))))
```

The act of "seeing" is to transfer information from one's eyes to one's conciousness, and is done by directing one's eyes at whatever is to be seen. Therefore, there is an instrument dependency on an act of ATTENDing.

Note that "Mary's image", not Mary, is transferred from John's eyes. Also note, the place to which the image is transferred is represented as the mental location (MLOC) of

John's Conscious Processor (CP).

Primitive STATEs provide information about some property or
condition of objects. Many of these states can be described (for
computational purposes especially) by a numerical value. For instance,
the "HEALTH", "ANGER" level, and "CONCIOUSNESS" states of an object may
be valued as being in the range from -10 to +10.   [Schank; 1975] gives
the scale of values shown in (43) for describing an object's HEALTH.

(43) Sample scale values for HEALTH STATE of objects in CD
     [Schank; 1975]

     HEALTH STATE (Scaled from -10 to +10):
          dead   -10
          gravely ill   -9
          sick   -9 to -1
          under the weather   -2
          all right   0
          tip top   +7
           perfect health   +10

Other STATES, such as "LENGTH" and "COLOR", have absolute values
("45 feet" or "red", for example) rather than a scaled rating.
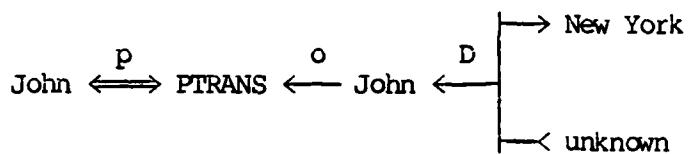
Figure 37
Graphical CD representation of "John went to New York." [Schank; 1975]
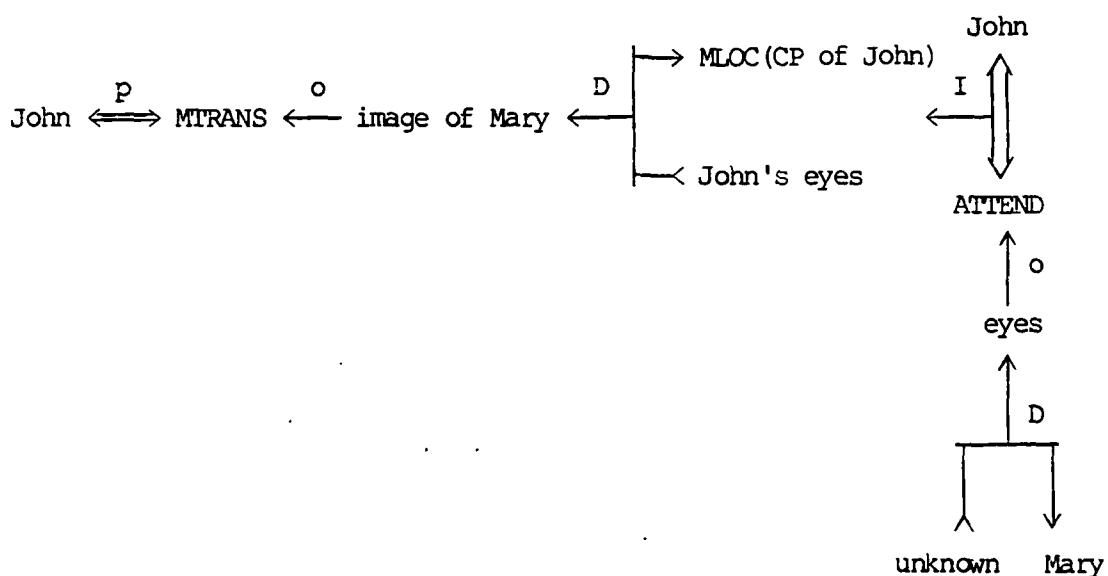
Figure 38
Graphical CD representation of "John saw Mary."
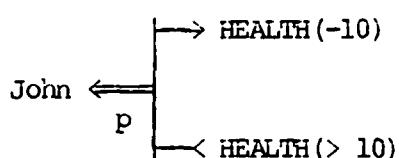
Figure 39
Graphical CD representation of "John died."

Early descriptions of the Conceptual Dependency knowledge representation schema used labelled arrows to graphically represent dependencies. The graphical notations for "John went to New York", "John saw Mary", and "John died" are shown in Figure 37, Figure 38, and Figure 39, respectively.

Note from the representation in Figure 39 of "John died" that verbs are not necessarily represented by primitive ACTs.

CD primitive ACTs and STATEs form represenitions of actions. Other knowledge structures, based on CD primitives and demonstrated in computer implementations, have been developed to represent other types of information.

SAM (Script Applier Mechanism) [Cullingford; 1981], for example, uses scripts to represent stereotypical human activities such as dining out or grocery shopping. Scripts describe the sequence of events that can be expected to occur during such activities. "Dining out", for instance, can be described by the sequential occurrence of the events listed below:

(44) 1. The customer goes to the restaurant.
     2. The customer goes to a table.
     3. The server brings a menu.
     4. The customer orders a meal.
     5. The server brings the meal.
     6. The customer eats the meal.
     7. The server brings the check.
     8. The customer leaves a tip for the server.
     9. The customer gives money to the cashier for the meal.
     10. The customer leaves the restaurant.

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When told "John went to a restaurant. He ordered chicken. He left a big tip.", SAM assumes that the intervening activities of the restaurant script occurred.

Of course, not all human experiences can be described by scripts. PAM (Plan Applier Mechanism) [Wilensky; 1981] investigated the use of "plans", "goals", and "themes" for story understanding. Plans describe steps toward achieving a goal. If a character's goal is to satisfy his/her hunger, an appropriate plan might be to apply the restaurant script. Themes provide general information upon which predictions can be made about an individual's goals. Hunger, Love, and Success are examples of themes. Each may be ascribed to an individual, which would then help to explain that individual's goals. SAM, PAM, and a number of other programs designed to experiment with the use of CD knowledge structures to handle various aspects of human understanding are described in [Schank and Riesbeck; 1981]. BORIS, described in [Dyer; 1983], integrates script, plans, goals, themes, and other knowledge structures into a program which reads and answers questions about short stories in a limited domain. Each of these references contains miniature versions of the programs described.

D. Word Expert Parsing (WEP) Theory

In Word Expert Parsing (WEP) Theory, the individual contributions of the words of a sentence fragment determine the overall meaning of the fragment. WEP Theory has been proposed as a linguistic theory (a theory

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of how humans understand language).

According to WEP Theory, each word has an associated <u>word</u> <u>expert</u>
which determines the meaning of the word in the context of other words.
A word expert `knows' everything there is to know about a word:
different senses of the word, and how the meaning of the word effects
and is effected by the other words in a sentence. As each word is
examined sequentially during the parsing process, its "word expert" is
retrieved from memory and executed. Word experts, which can be thought
of as the "code" for determining the contribution of words in context,
ask questions and exchange information with other word experts, and with
higher-order system processes, until all of the word experts for a
particular fragment of text come to a collective agreement on the
meaning of the fragment.

An interesting sidelight to WEP Theory is that it does not accept
the notion of an idiom. In other parsing theories, the words of an
idiom must be viewed as a single unit in order to determine the idiom's
meaning. In WEP Theory, each word expert "knows" what its word's
contribution will be even within the context of the words that make up
the idiom. The disambiguation of idiomatic expressions will not differ
significantly from the comprehension of any other sentence fragment.

In the prototype LISP (programmed) implementation of WEP theory,
each word expert uses a <u>word</u> <u>sense</u> <u>discrimination</u> <u>network</u> (or <u>sense</u> <u>net</u>)
to disambiguate the role of a word in a sentence. Each node of the
discrimination net represents a multiple-choice question that the word

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expert can ask in order to determine the single appropriate sense of the word. An example network for the word "deep" is shown in Figure 40.
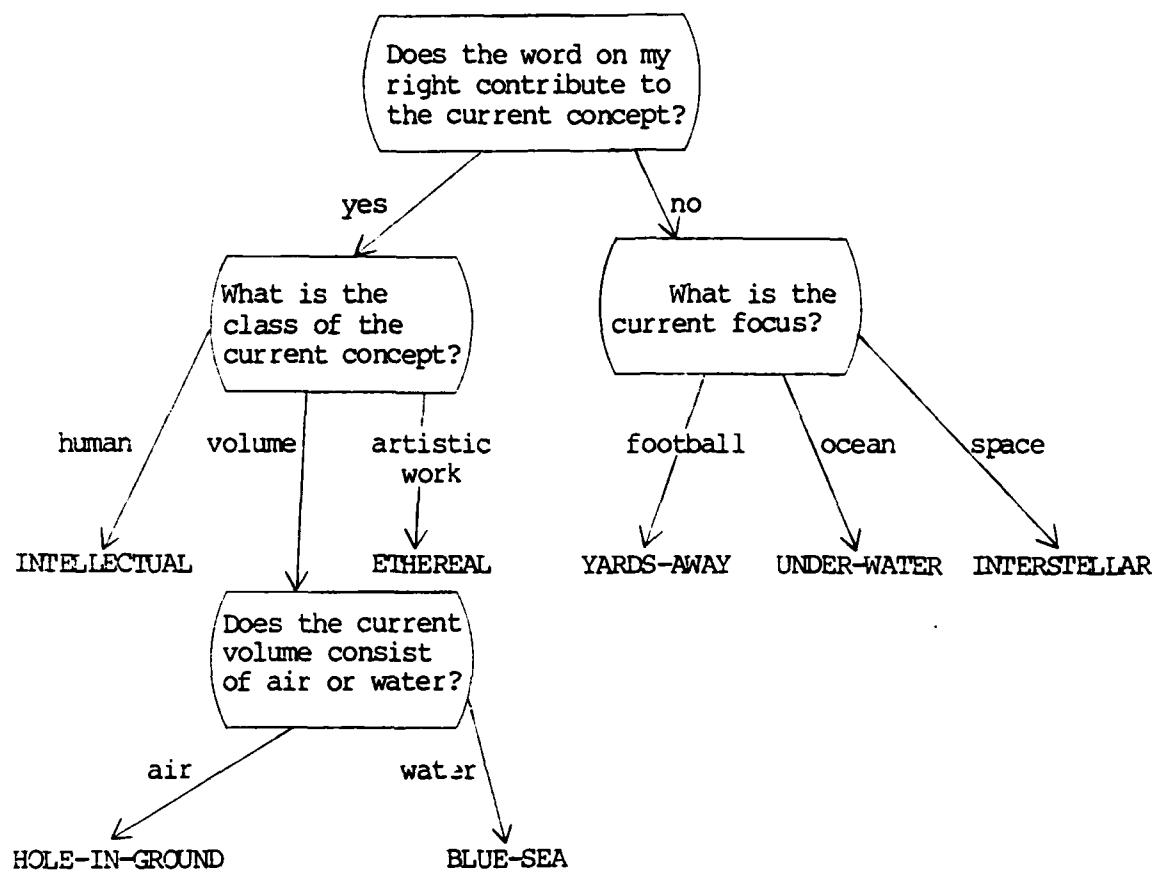
Figure 40
Word Sense Discrimination Network for "deep"

APPENDIX A

TRANSFORMATIONAL RULE ORDERING

The following is the ordered list of transformations of
Transformational Grammar Theory from [Akmajian and Heny; 1975]. A line
connecting two rules indicates that an explicit argument for their
displayed ordering exists. Although there is not an argument for every
pair, the combination of all of the pairwise orderings leads to a total
ordering.

1. Dative Movement (Optional)
2. Equi NP Deletion (Obligatory)
3. Raising to Object (Obligatory)
4. Raising to Subject (Obligatory)
5. `For' Deletion (Obligatory)
6. Passive (Optional)
7. Agent Deletion (Optional)
8. Reflexivization (Obligatory)
9. Extraposition (Optional)
10. `It' Deletion (Obligatory)
11. Number Agreement (Obligatory)
12. `There' Insertion (Optional)
13. Tag Formation (Optional)
14. Negative Placement (Obligatory)
15. Contraction (Optional)
16. Subject-Auxiliary Inversion (Obligatory)
17. WH Fronting (Obligatory)
18. Affix Hopping (Obligatory)
19. `Do' Support (Obligatory)

APPENDIX B

Sample Dialogue with SOPHIE
(A SOPHisticated Instructional Environment)

SOPHIE [Brown; 1974] is a computer program designed to tutor
students on the principles of electronic circuit debugging. The
following is a sample of the dialogue that may occur between a student
and the system.

SOPHIE> THE INSTRUMENT HAS A FAULT AND ITS PRESENT CONTROL SETTINGS ARE:
        CC   1.0   (CURRENT CONTROL - FROM 0.0 (MIN CURRENT) TO 1.0)
        CR   HIGH   (CURRENT RANGE SWITCH, HIGH=1 AMP, LOW=.1 AMP)
        LOAD   20   (LOAD RESISTANCE IN OHMS)
        VC   1.0   (VOLTAGE CONTROL - FROM 0.0 (MIN VOLTAGE) TO 1.0)
        VR   HIGH   (VOLTAGE RANGE SWITCH, HIGH=30 VOLTS, LOW=10 VOLTS)

Student> WHAT IS THE OUTPUT?
SOPHIE> THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE IS 11.7 VOLTS.

Student> WHAT IS IT IN A WORKING INSTRUMENT?
SOPHIE> IN A WORKING CIRCUIT THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE IS 19.9 VOLTS.
        THAT VALUE IS INCORRECT.
(Note the student's use of pronomial reference. "IT" is used to refer
to the output voltage.)

Student> WHAT IS THE VOLTAGE BETWEEN R8 AND Q1
SOPHIE> THE VOLTAGE AT N1 IS 47.6 VOLTS.

Student> WHAT IS THE BSE EMITTER VOLTAGE OF THE VOLTAGE LIMITING TRANSITOR?
SOPHIE> =BASE
        =TRANSISTOR
        THE BASE EMITTER VOLTAGE OF Q5 IS -.037 MILLIVOLTS.
(The spelling corrector has detected and corrected two misspellings.)

Student> WHAT ABOUT FOR THE CURRENT LIMITING TRANSISTOR
SOPHIE> THE BASE EMITTER VOLTAGE OF Q6 IS .349 VOLTS.
(The student is actually asking, "WHAT ABOUT THE BASE EMITTER VOLTAGE FOR
THE CURRENT LIMITING TRANSISTOR". This is an example of the use of ellipsis.)

APPENDIX C

Definite Clause Grammar (DCG)

A Context-Free Grammar:

        sentence ---> noun_phrase, verb_phrase.

        noun_phrase ---> determiner, noun.

        verb_phrase ---> verb.
        verb_phrase ---> verb, noun_phrase.

        determiner ---> [the].

        noun ---> [man].
        noun ---> [apple].

        verb ---> [eats].
        verb ---> [sings].

    Given the context-free grammar above, Prolog's Grammar Rule
Interpreter would rewrite it into the Prolog code shown below. This
example is from [Clocksin and Mellish; 1981].

    Prolog code for small grammar:

        sentence(S0,S) :- noun_phrase(S0,S1), verb_phrase(S1,S).

        noun_phrase(S0,S) :- determiner(S0,S1), noun(S1,S).

        verb_phrase(S0,S) :- verb(S0,S).
        verb_phrase(S0,S) :- verb(S0,S1), noun_phrase(S1,S).

        determiner([the|S],S).

        noun([man|S],S).
        noun([apple|S],S).

        verb([eats|S],S).   .
        verb([sings|S,S]).

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APPENDIX D

CONCEPTUAL DEPENDENCY (CD) PRIMITIVE ACTS

Listed and briefly described here, are the primitive ACTs defined for Conceptual Dependency Theory. Each of them is described in-depth in [Schank; 1975] and [Dyer; 1983].

ATRANS: The primitive ATRANS is used to represent the transfer of an abstract relationship, such as possession. One sense of the word "give" is to ATRANS something to someone else. To "take" is to ATRANS something to oneself. ATRANS is also used in conceptualizations of "bought" and "sold".

PTRANS: A PTRANS represents the transfer of the physical location of an object. For example, "go" is a PTRANS of oneself from one place to another. "Driving", and "flying" are also represented by PTRANS.

MTRANS: An MTRANS represents a transfer of mental information from one place to another, for instance from one individual to another as in "speaking" and "talking", or among distinct parts of one individual's memory as in "remembering", "forgetting", and "learning".

MBUILD: An action which is an MBUILD is one which creates new conceptual structures from old ones. Examples are "concluding" and "realizing".

PROPEL: Representing the application of a physical force, as in "hitting", "falling", and "pulling", requires the primitive PROPEL.

MOVE: A MOVE represents the movement of a bodypart of an animate organism. The conceptualizations of "waving" and "dancing" use the MOVE primitive.

INGEST: When an organism takes something from outside itself and makes it internal, it INGESTs it. "Breathing" and "smoking" are acts of INGESTing.

EXPEL: The opposite of INGEST, an organism EXPELs when it takes something from inside itself and makes it external, as in "sweating" and "crying".

GRASP: To physically contact an object is to GRASP it. Examples are "grabbing" and "hugging".

SPEAK: Any vocalization is represented using the SPEAK primitive. "Squeek" and "quack" would be included as well as "say".

ATTEND: The act of directing a sense organ is represented with ATTEND. To "hear" something involves ATTENDing one's ears toward the sounds being made (not towards the being or thing making the sounds).

APPENDIX E

GLOSSARY
Each term is followed by page number(s).

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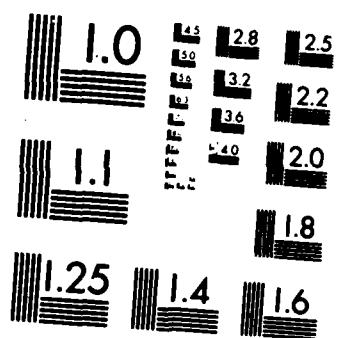
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