**Requirements for GRAMMAR that are universal**

prelinguistic mindset

the naming insight

mental involvement

social commitment

mind that deals with systems and logic

capacity for recursion and productivity

capacity for displacement

mind that handles pragmatic data

mind reading other minds and understanding others’ intentions

efficient mind that receives, plans and stores stimuli& data, organizes words>categories, stores rules…

multifunctional processor of stimuli of sorts

* **Language diversity** in thought-organization revealed in grammar > TYPOLOGY

phonology

morphology

syntax

SENTENCE = thought that’s linguistically organized

WORD = concept revealing social commitment

SOUNDs of language that distinguish meaning

GRAMMAR = rules that enable speakers producing and processing (complex) utterances

“knowledge” of what PHRASEs are

of possible word orders

of recurring patterns (embedding, deleting, substituting)

of relationship, dependence, hierarchy and agreement

sentence (S > NP VP)> phrases (NP VP AdjP AP PP)> phrase constituents (nouns, verbs etc.)

**WHAT MENTAL STRUCTURES allow speakers to say what they think?!** (Ray Jackendoff):

#### Generative Grammar accounts for mental mechanisms that make language work / the mental processes involved when we produce or comprehend language: our versions of English have a certain structure to it > what mechanisms in my mind correspond to that structure

#### the way I implement English is very similar to the way other speakers of my dialect do;

#### the way I implement my native language has got basically the same organization as the way speakers of Tamil implement theirs, even though English and Tamil are not related languages

**phonology, syntax and semantics as three parallel generative processes**:

**a word** is an interface rule specifying coordination between sounds, syntax and a concept

grammatical rules are interface rules involving options

(implemented somehow by neural dynamics, see [Gary Marcus](http://www.psych.nyu.edu/marcus/) in his [*The Algebraic Mind*](http://www.psych.nyu.edu/gary/TAM/tam_frontpage.html))

* **How might language be instantiated in the brain?**

Relation of language to the world is mediated through users’ conceptual schemes or mental models of language users - this mediation is so transparent we can almost ignore it

NOAM CHOMSKY – born w. universal grammar

BUT… evidence for UG?

model of UG in speakers’ minds? How acquired the UG patterns?

* WHY SO MANY SYNTACTIC OPTIONS FOR DELIVERING the same thoughts?!

GRAMMAR as packaging INFORMATION:

choosing structures to deliver the state of mind and its nuanced thoughts

the structures reflect what the speaker assumes about the other’s state of mind/ intentions/ thoughts > grammar choices account for psychological phenomena

including intonation patterns and prosody markers

Grammar is an ECOLOGICAL system concerned w. choices

reflecting goal-oriented human behavior and efficient processing of language

structuring utterances according to pragmatic situations

language functions efficiently because the speaker takes account of the other’s state of knowledge

speakers handle their hypotheses about the other’s assumptions, beliefs and strategies