

(7)

The negative transformation

The phrase-structure rules can produce the structures underlying such sentences as : Those boys might have been swimming in the lake.

The manager wrote a letter.

Those sentences cannot produce such structures as the following:

The manager didn't write a letter

Did the manager write a letter?

Who wrote a letter?

What did the manager write?

A letter was written by the manager.

Because the manager wrote a letter.....

The manger's having written a letter.....

All those structures seem to be related in some way to :

The manager wrote a letter.

The same relationships are found in all of them: the manager is the one who performed the act of writing, and a letter is the result of this action. in spite of the differences in form, there is a similarity in meaning in all the structures. Transformational rules are used to produce these changes in form.

1-deep and surface structures

Deep structure is a structure generated only by phrase structure and lexical rules, such as (not past John can sing well). The word "past" refers to the tense.

Surface structure: is the deep structure that has transformed into a grammatical English sentence, such as John could not sing well.

All grammatical sentences are surface structures, underlying each one is a deep structure.

Examples:

| (Deep structure) | (surface structure) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1-Not Jerry could hear me | Jerry couldn't hear me |
| 2-Not Bill has received it | Bill has not received it |
| 3-Not they are going with us | they are not going with us |
| 4-We present not play often | we do not play often |
| 5-They present not taste the salt | they do not taste the salt |

In the above sentences, in 1,2,3 there are helping verbs/ auxiliaries so we know the tense, while in 4 and 5, we don't have auxiliaries therefore, we added the word "present" to tell you the tense, so you will add it in the surface structure to have a grammatical sentence. If there was "past", we would say "did not"