

During the past ten years there have been many developments in transformational grammar, and there will certainly be more in the future. This mark is used to indicate that a sentence or a part of a sentence is ungrammatical; that is, no native speaker of the language would intentionally use it. By grammatical we are not referring to standard and nonstandard usage. There is so much controversy among linguists that many people use the plural in speaking of transformational grammars; there is no single transformational grammar which is accepted by all scholars in the field. The transformational grammarian is not content with describing what he finds in a corpus of sentences collected from native speakers. In addition, the grammar should not generate sentences that a native speaker would reject, such as *The man horrified the door* or *Boy on the roof is*. Notice the asterisk in the last two sentences. Calling sentences like *He ain't going* and *Irregardless of what you think, he taken it* grammatical does not mean that the linguist is encouraging anyone to use them when applying for a job. An adequate grammar of English should enable a person to produce not just those sentences that have been said in the past, but all the sentences that a native speaker is capable of creating or understanding. He refers to acceptability among various social groups or in various contexts as usage.