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***English Grammar: A University Course (3rd ed.), by
Angela Downing. Routledge, New York and London
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English Grammar: A University Course (3rd Ed.) is a best-selling comprehensive course and reference book based on Functional Approach (based on Halidayan systemic-functional grammar) to Traditional Grammar drawing also on the principles of discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics. The audience of the book are students (native or non-native) taking a course on English grammar (or working on a self-study basis), as well as teachers and lecturers interested in applying functional approach to language teaching in higher education. Earlier reviewers have praised it for "taking the grammar off the page and into real life" showing how language is used in different contexts in the outside world (Tom Bartlett, blurb). The author (Angela Downing, a professor emeritus at Universidad Complutense de Madrid) thinks of grammar as a means of perceiving the relation between form and meaning and using meaning in context. With this underlying assumption, the book is an endeavor to enable the learners to appropriately express themselves in spoken and written English.

The content of the book has been organized into 12 self-contained chapters (with 59 'units' overall, called 'modules' in previous editions) in addition to an answer key, a select bibliography and an index as well as a preface and introduction to the third edition. Schematically, the content of the book can be divided into three major parts: the first part, chapter one, presents a general overview of the book and the basic concepts as well. The second part, consisting of seven chapters, describes clause and sentence patterns. The third part, comprises five chapters, and deals with nominal, verbal, adjectival, adverbial and prepositional groups and phrases. Throughout the units, examples, based on actual real-life uses of grammar forms, have been employed to illustrate grammatical points clearly. Except for units in the first chapter, all other units start with a 'summary' which outlines what is described in the unit later. As well as definitions and descriptions of technical

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terms, each unit offers various practice exercises and activities (placed towards the end of relevant chapter).

Chapter one introduces some basic terms used in the book. The chapter is divided into three units: unit one presents three strands of meaning that form the foundations of a functional interpretation of grammar i.e. the representational, the interpersonal, and the textual meanings. Unit two deals with the outline of basic syntactic concepts: structural units, the classes and the elements. Unit three of the chapter is concerned with basic human communicational needs i.e., negating and questioning. The unit talks about finite operator, which is a verb categorized to primary, modal, and 'do' operators used in English to form negative and interrogative clause structures.

Chapter two consists of five units. The chapter starts with a very vivid summary of the chapter presenting a bird's eye view of it. The chapter focuses on clause structure, syntactic elements and classification of clause elements. Topics like subject, predicate, different types of object, object complements and adjuncts are discussed in detail in this chapter. The chapter ends with suggestions for further reading and exercises related to each unit of the chapter.

Chapter three is made up of four units, and focuses on complementation of verb, complementation patterns and valency for different classes of verbs with different semantic valencies. Different types of complementation like intransitive, copular, transitive, monotransitive, ditransitive and complex transitive are proposed in this chapter. Unit nine of the chapter is concerned with verbs with no complementation, i.e. intransitive verbs with S-V structure or a prepositional complement. The following unit of the chapter tackles transitive verbs, with patterns containing two-place verbs and direct object or a prepositional complement (monotransitive) with patterns containing three-place verbs (ditransitive), and complex-transitive pattern, with one object and one complement. Unit eleven and twelve of the chapter are devoted to two other types of complementation related to clauses, i.e. complementation by finite and nonfinite clauses.

Chapter four on interaction between speaker and hearer links speech and grammar. It consists of six units. Types of speech acts and their related clause types are discussed in this chapter. In the final unit of the chapter the author draws a distinction between imperatives and directives according to dependence on the relative authority of the speaker towards the addressee and whether the addressee is given the option of complying or with the directive.

In chapter five, clause is viewed as a grammatical means of encoding patterns of experience. Clause as a grammatical unit is important because it helps us to organize our experience into a number of representational patterns. Here the writer focuses on a clause as semantically representing a pattern of experience conceptualized as a situation (composed of the process, participant roles, attributives, and circumstances) or situation types (material, mental, and relational).

In chapter six, theme as a point of departure of the message is considered the first clause constituent along with rheme. Theme is an element of thematic structure of clause. The writer differentiates between theme and rheme, syntactic subject and discourse category topic. The last unit of the chapter is devoted to the effect of the interplay of Theme-Rheme, Given-New, types of clefting and their discourse functions.

Chapter seven is concerned with dependent and independent clauses and how clauses are combined. It then moves to sentence as the highest unit of grammar. Other units of the chapter deal with the way clauses are syntactically related in a state of equivalence or non-equivalence. The final part of the chapter concentrates on direct and indirect speech, with examples of free direct/indirect speech taken from fiction writers in an attempt to illustrate the stream of thought of their characters.

Chapter eight elaborates on verbal group (VG). Verbal group is a grammatical unit which encompasses our perception of the events. Basic structure of a verbal group as well as higher order verbal groups (made by coordination or dependency) are discussed in some detail.

Looking through the eyes of linguistics, chapter nine makes a distinction between tense and aspect. Here, past and present are considered the only tenses in English. Tense is defined as the grammatical expression of the location of events in time. Future is not regarded a tense because it has no verbal inflection. Other units of the chapter talk about aspects like perfect and progressive with their implied meanings.

Chapter ten deals with nominal group. The initial unit of the chapter gives us an overview of the structure of the nominal group mostly using linguistic terms like pre-head, head, and post-head. It classifies nouns under three headings: common nouns, proper nouns, and pronouns. The second unit of the chapter talks about definite, indefinite and zero article. The third unit defines and describes determiners and demonstratives. The two final units are about modifiers, pre-modifiers and post modifiers and two main types of noun complement clauses.

In chapter eleven, three initial units of the chapter, (all on adjectival group) define three structural elements for the group as being head, modifier and post head element, which can be a modifier and post head element. Then adjectives are categorized to simple, derived, compound, and participles along with other kinds. The three final units of the chapter are related to adverbial groups, their syntactic functions and modification, and complementation in the adverbial group.

The final chapter of the book is composed of three units. There is a distinction between groups discussed in the previous chapters, and those discussed here: prepositions and prepositional phrases. The groups discussed in earlier chapters (nominal, verb, adjectival, adverbial) all can function as the head of their group and can be used alone while prepositions and prepositional phrases cannot be used without a nominal unit.

On an evaluative note, the book seems to fulfill its promises in furthering students' knowledge of English grammar, providing means of understanding the relation between form and meaning and also enabling the learners to speak and write more effectively. The existence of a companion website with further exercises and a glossary as well as a separate teacher's manual is also an advantage to the book

The volume is more appropriate for advanced students of English and for teachers of English who want to obtain a deeper understanding of English grammar. In comparison with some well-known

books in the field of English grammar, the present book is much in line with Quirk et al.'s (1987) comprehensive, and Leech and Svartvik's (1983) communicative grammar of English.

However, considering some classic books in this field like *Practical English Grammar* (Thomson & Martinet, 1986), and *Advanced English Grammar* (Graver, 1990), the book is not providing the readers with sufficient exercises. Although the book carries 'A University Course' as part of the title, most university students who have taken grammar courses using books such as *Oxford Practice Grammar* (Eastwood, 2006) may get surprised by finding out how differently grammar is tackled in this book, making it more appropriate as 'A Resource Book' or 'A Reference Book'. A subheading such as 'A Linguistics Perspective' as part of the title will be providing more information to the potential reader as to the scope and content of this interesting volume.

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