

# I

**iamb** (*n.*) A traditional term in METRICS for a unit of poetic RHYTHM comprising a single pair of unstressed + STRESSED syllables (as in *believe*); also called an **iambic foot**. In METRICAL PHONOLOGY, the notion is used as an informal name for BOUNDED right-DOMINANT FEET, which display this rhythmical structure. See also TROCHEE.

**iambic reversal** see REVERSAL

**iconicity** (*n.*) (1) A suggested defining property of some SEMIOTIC SYSTEMS, but not LANGUAGE, to refer to signals whose physical FORM closely corresponds to characteristics of the situations to which they refer. This is the normal state of affairs in animal communication, for example, where a call expressing fear is used only in a fear-producing context. In language, only a small number of ITEMS could be argued to possess such directly symbolic (**iconic**) properties, e.g. onomatopoeic expressions such as *cuckoo*, *growl*.

(2) In LINGUISTICS, **iconicity** identifies the extent to which a relationship between SEMANTIC notions is directly represented in a language's FORMAL expression. For example, the semantic relation of a VERB to its direct OBJECT (*I see a cat*) is closer than that of a verb to its adverbial (*I see a cat every evening*), and insofar as a language would reflect this difference in closeness formally (e.g. through MORPHOLOGY or through WORD-ORDER) one could talk of an **iconic** correspondence. This pair of examples would support the notion, in that the normal word-order is as given, and not *\*I see every evening a cat*). Iconicity is especially notable in morphology, where increased formal MARKEDNESS typically corresponds to increased semantic markedness.

**idealization** (*n.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS to refer to the degree to which linguists ignore certain aspects of the variability in their raw DATA, in order to arrive at an analysis that is as GENERALLY applicable as possible. Idealization is a major assumption of GENERATIVE linguistics, as it underlies the notion of COMPETENCE. A main aim of linguistics, in this view, is to account for the LANGUAGE of an **ideal** (or **idealized**) speaker-hearer in an ideal (i.e. homogeneous) SPEECH community, who knows the language perfectly, and is unaffected by memory limitations, distractions, errors, etc., in actually using the language. While

some degree of idealization is inevitable, if general statements are to be made, the decision as to what can be discounted in carrying out an analysis is often controversial.

**ideational** (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in SEMANTICS as part of a classification of types of MEANING. It refers to that aspect of meaning which relates to the speaker's COGNITIVE awareness of the external world or (in a behavioural definition) to the objectively verifiable states of affairs in the external world, as reflected in LANGUAGE. This function of language, for the expression of CONTENT, is usually contrasted with INTERPERSONAL (or social), EXPRESSIVE and TEXTUAL meaning. Terms with similar meaning include 'conceptual', 'referential', 'propositional' and COGNITIVE. The cognitive process of forming ideas and relationships of meaning, prior to their formulation in language, is known as **ideation**.

**identity** (*n.*) (**ident**) A family of FAITHFULNESS CONSTRAINTS in OPTIMALITY THEORY requiring that the SEGMENTS of two corresponding FORMS have the same FEATURES.

**identity operation** see ZERO

**ideogram** (*n.*) In GRAPHOLOGY, a term used for a symbol in a writing SYSTEM which represents a whole WORD or concept; also called an **ideograph**. **Ideographic** writing is usually distinguished as a later development from pictographic. Ideograms have an abstract or conventional MEANING, no longer displaying a clear pictorial link with external reality. Examples include a foot shape representing 'go' or a sun symbol representing 'wisdom'. See also CONVENTION, PICTOGRAM.

**ideograph** (*n.*) see IDEOGRAM

**ideophone** (*n.*) A term sometimes used in LINGUISTICS and PHONETICS for any vivid (**ideophonic**) representation of an idea in sound, such as occurs through onomatopoeia. In Bantu linguistics, it is the name of a particular WORD CLASS containing SOUND-SYMBOLIC words.

**idioglossia** (*n.*) A term sometimes used in LINGUISTICS for an invented form of speech whose meaning is known only to the inventor(s); also called **autonomous speech** or **cryptophasia**. An example is the idiosyncratic form of communication which sometimes emerges spontaneously between twins, and which is popularly labelled 'twin language' (though it is invariably only a deviant form of the local mother-tongue).

**idiolect** (*n.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS to refer to the linguistic SYSTEM of an individual speaker – one's personal DIALECT. A dialect can be seen as an abstraction deriving from the analysis of a large number of idiolects. **Idiolectal** features are particularly noticeable in literary writing, as STYLISTIC markers of authorship. Some linguists give the term a more restricted definition, referring to the speech habits of a person as displayed in a particular VARIETY at a given time.

**idiom** (*n.*) A term used in GRAMMAR and LEXICOLOGY to refer to a SEQUENCE of WORDS which is SEMANTICALLY and often SYNTACTICALLY restricted, so that they

function as a single UNIT. From a semantic viewpoint, the MEANINGS of the individual words cannot be summed to produce the meaning of the **idiomatic** expression as a whole. From a syntactic viewpoint, the words often do not permit the usual variability they display in other CONTEXTS, e.g. *it's raining cats and dogs* does not permit *\*it's raining a cat and a dog/dogs and cats*, etc. Because of their lack of internal CONTRASTIVITY, some linguists refer to idioms as 'ready-made UTTERANCES'. An alternative terminology refers to idioms as 'habitual COLLOCATIONS'. A point which has attracted considerable discussion is the extent to which degrees and kinds of **idiomaticness** can be established: some idioms do permit a degree of internal change, and are somewhat more literal in meaning than others (e.g. *it's worth her while/the job will be worth my while*, etc.). In GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, idiomatic constructions are used for testing hypotheses about structure: if idioms are units whose parts stay together in DEEP STRUCTURE, then one can test whether a particular syntactic construction involves MOVEMENT by seeing whether the parts of the idiom can be separated in that construction. In this approach, also, the term **idiom chunk** is used for one part of an idiom which has been separated from the remainder through some syntactic operation, such as *the basket* in *That's the basket into which I've put all my eggs* (cf. *I've put all my eggs into one basket*).

**idiophone** (*n.*) A term used by some LINGUISTS to refer to a speech sound identifiable with reference to a single IDIOLECT.

**I-language** (*n.*) An abbreviation for **internalized language**, a term suggested by Noam Chomsky to refer to a LANGUAGE viewed as an element of the mind of a person who knows the language, acquired by the learner, and used by the speaker-hearer. It is seen in contrast with E-LANGUAGE.

**illative** (*adj./n.*) A term used in GRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTION to refer to a type of INFLECTION which expresses the meaning of 'motion into' or 'direction towards' a place. The illative CASE ('the illative') is found in Finnish, for example, along with ALLATIVE, ELATIVE and several other cases expressing 'local' temporal and spatial meanings.

**ill formed** (*adj.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS, especially in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, to refer to the ungrammaticality (**ill-formedness** or **DEVIANCE**) of a SENTENCE. A sentence is ill formed if it cannot be generated by the RULES of a grammar; it is WELL FORMED if it can be. The term applies equally to SYNTAX, SEMANTICS and PHONOLOGY.

**illiteracy** (*n.*) see LITERACY

**illocutionary** (*adj.*) A term used in the theory of SPEECH ACTS to refer to an act which is performed by the speaker by virtue of the UTTERANCE having been made. Examples of **illocutionary acts** (or **illocutionary force**) include promising, commanding, requesting, baptizing, arresting, etc. The term is contrasted with LOCUTIONARY (the act of 'saying') and PERLOCUTIONARY (where the act is defined by reference to the effect it has on the hearer).

**imitation** (*n.*) An application of the general sense of this term to LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, where it refers to children's behaviour in copying the language they hear around them. The importance of the notion is twofold. First, it has been shown that imitation cannot by itself account for the facts of language development (despite a popular view to the contrary – that children learn language by imitating their parents): FORMS such as \**mouses* and \**wented*, and SENTENCES such as \**Me not like that*, show that some internal process of construction is taking place. Second, the skills children show when they are actually imitating are often different, in important aspects, from those they display in spontaneous SPEECH PRODUCTION, or in COMPREHENSION. The relationship between imitation, production and comprehension has been a major focus of experimental and descriptive interest in acquisition studies.

**immediate constituent (IC)** A term used in GRAMMATICAL analysis to refer to the major divisions that can be made within a SYNTACTIC CONSTRUCTION, at any LEVEL. For example, in analysing the SENTENCE *The boy is walking*, the immediate constituents would be *the boy* and *is walking*. These in turn can be analysed into immediate constituents (*the + boy*, *is + walking*), and the process continues until irreducible constituents are reached. The whole procedure is known as **immediate-constituent analysis** (or 'CONSTITUENT analysis'), and was a major feature of BLOOMFIELDIAN STRUCTURALIST linguistics.

**immediate dominance** (1) A term used in GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS for a type of relationship between NODES in a PHRASE-MARKER: a node A immediately DOMINATES a node B if and only if there is no node C such that it also dominates B and is dominated by A.

(2) An **immediate dominance (ID) rule** is a type of rule in GENERALIZED PHRASE-STRUCTURE GRAMMAR of the form  $X \rightarrow Y, Z$ . It specifies that X can dominate Y and Z but does not specify the relative order of Y and Z. Together with LINEAR PRECEDENCE RULES and various general PRINCIPLES, ID rules generate phrase-markers of the classical type.

**imperative** (*adj./n.*) (**imp, imper, IMPER**) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL classification of SENTENCE types, and usually seen in contrast to INDICATIVE, INTERROGATIVE, etc. An imperative usage ('an imperative') refers to VERB FORMS or sentence/CLAUSE types typically used in the expression of COMMANDS, e.g. *Go away!*

**imperfective** (*adj./n.*) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL analysis of ASPECT, referring to those FORMS of the VERB which mark the way in which the internal time structure of a situation is viewed. Imperfective forms (or 'imperfectives') contrast with PERFECTIVE forms, where the situation is seen as a whole, regardless of the time contrasts it may contain. The contrast is well recognized in the grammar of Slavic languages.

**imperfect tense** (**imp, imperf, impf, IMPF**) In GRAMMAR, a TENSE form used in some languages to express such meanings as duration or continuity in past time. Latin is an example of a language which had an imperfect tense: *amabam* 'I was loving/used to love'.

**impersonal** (*adj.*) see PERSON

**implicational scaling** A model of language VARIATION which aims to account for the differential spread of changes in a population. Individual variation is represented as an alternation between old and new RULES, and differences between individuals are viewed as differences in rule inventories. An implicational table is used to display the spread of rules throughout a population. The approach contrasts with the VARIABLE rule model, in which variability is a property of the rules themselves.

**implicational universal** see UNIVERSAL

**implicature** (*n.*) A term derived from the work of the philosopher H. P. Grice (1913–88) and now frequently used in LINGUISTICS as part of the study of conversational structure. **Conversational implicatures** refer to the implications which can be deduced from the FORM of an UTTERANCE, on the basis of certain CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES which govern the efficiency and normal ACCEPTABILITY of conversations, as when the sentence *There's some chalk on the floor* is taken to mean 'you ought to pick it up'; they contrast with **explicatures**, which are the propositions that are explicitly communicated (the fact that the chalk is on the floor, in this example). Several types of implicature have been discussed, in the context of the relationship between language and logical expression, and of the conditions which affect the APPROPRIATENESS of utterances. In particular, implicatures have been classified into **generalized** and **particularized** types – the former not being restricted to a particular context; the latter requiring a specific context. Also, a contrast has been drawn between conversational (or **non-conventional**) implicatures, which are inferences calculated on the basis of the MAXIMS OF CONVERSATION, and **conventional** implicatures, which are not derived from these principles but simply attached by convention to particular expressions. Examples of the latter which have been suggested include utterance-INITIAL *oh*, the use of *therefore*, *even* and *yet*, and sequences of the type *He is an Englishman; therefore he is brave*. However, relatively little detailed linguistic investigation has yet taken place into these matters, and several of the proposals are controversial.

**implicit argument** see ARGUMENT

**implosive** (*adj./n.*) A term used in the PHONETIC classification of CONSONANT sounds on the basis of their MANNER OF ARTICULATION: it refers to the series of PLOSIVE sounds it is possible to make using an AIRSTREAM MECHANISM involving an inwards movement of air in the mouth (an INGRESSIVE airstream). A complete CLOSURE is made in the mouth, as with any plosive sound, but the air behind the closure is not compressed, ready for outwards release; instead, a downwards movement of the LARYNX takes place, and the air inside the mouth is accordingly rarefied. Upon release of the closure, air is then sucked into the mouth at the same time as the GLOTTIS is released, allowing lung air to produce some VOCAL CORD vibration. It is this combination of movements that results in the characteristically 'hollow' auditory effect of the implosive consonants (or 'implosives'). Such consonants are usually VOICED and occur PHONEMICALLY in such languages

as Sindi and Ibo. They are transcribed with a right-facing hook attached to the consonant symbol, as in [ǰ], [ǰ] [ǰ]. Alternative terms are ‘ingressive stop’ and ‘suction stop’ consonants. There is no opposite technical term ‘explosive’.

**impressionistic transcription** see TRANSCRIPTION

**inalienable** (*adj.*) A term used in GRAMMATICAL analysis to refer to a type of possessive relationship formally marked in some languages (e.g. Chinese). If a possessed item is seen as being in a permanent or necessary relationship to its possessor, the relationship is said to be inalienable (e.g. *the dog's head, the town centre*), otherwise it is ALIENABLE.

**inanimate** (*adj.*) see ANIMATE

**inceptive** (*adj./n.*) (**incept**, **INCEP**) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL analysis of VERBS, to refer to a type of ASPECTUAL relationship in which the beginning of an action is specified; also called **inchoative** (**inch**, **INCH**). In LANGUAGES which mark an inceptive aspect (an ‘inceptive’), the MEANING might be translated into English by ‘be about to’ or ‘be on the point of’ – for example, Latin *-escere*. A contrast is sometimes drawn with TELIC verbs.

**inchoative** /ɪnˈkəʊətɪv/ (*adj./n.*) see INCEPTIVE

**included** (*adj.*) see INCLUSION (1), (2)

**inclusion** (*n.*) (1) A SEMANTIC relationship which identifies the SENSE relation of HYPONYMY; e.g. to say that a *car* is a kind of *vehicle* is to say that the class of cars is **included** within that of vehicles.

(2) In GRAMMATICAL analysis, **included** is mainly used to refer to a LINGUISTIC FORM which occurs as a CONSTITUENT of a CONSTRUCTION: it is in the ‘included position’. For example, the CLAUSE *parked in the street* is in the included position in the SENTENCE *The car parked in the street was a Hillman*.

(3) With reference to PRONOUNS, **inclusive** (**incl**) is used (in contrast with EXCLUSIVE) to refer to a first-PERSON role where the speaker and addressee are both included, e.g. *we* = ‘me and you’ or ‘me and others and you’.

(4) In SEMANTICS, a term derived from formal logic (in contrast with EXCLUSIVE) to refer to a type of DISJUNCTION: in an **inclusive** interpretation, the disjunction is true if either, or both, of the propositions is true. In *Either X is happening or Y is happening*, an inclusive interpretation allows (‘includes’) both options.

(5) In SOCIOLINGUISTICS, and increasingly in general usage, **inclusive language** refers to the use of words which avoid the social stereotypes associated with particular social groups, especially in relation to ethnicity and sex. For example, because a noun such as *spokesman*, though traditionally GENERIC, could be given an excluding interpretation (i.e. referring to males only), it would be replaced in an inclusive approach by such nouns as *spokesperson*. In relation to the avoidance of sexual stereotypes, the term **nonsexist language** is often used.

**inclusive** (*adj.*) see INCLUSION (3), (4), (5)

**inclusive language** see INCLUSION (5)

**incompatibility** (*n.*) A term used in SEMANTICS as part of the study of the SENSE relations between LEXICAL ITEMS. It refers to sets of items where the choice of one item excludes the use of all the other items from that set (unless there is to be a contradiction). Colour terms provide a well-studied example: to say *the car is red* excludes *the car is green/blue*, etc. – and the set of items which contrast in this way are said to be **incompatible**. Incompatibility has been less investigated than other sense relations (such as ANTONYMY and SYNONYMY), but some linguists have pointed to the existence of different types of many-member (as opposed to binary) sets, such as ranks (e.g. military), scales (e.g. value judgements) and cycles (e.g. seasons).

**incomplete assimilation** see ASSIMILATION

**incorporating** (*adj.*) A term which characterizes a type of LANGUAGE sometimes distinguished in COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS using STRUCTURAL (as opposed to DIACHRONIC) criteria, and focusing on the characteristics of the WORD: ‘poly-synthetic’ or **incorporating languages** demonstrate MORPHOLOGICALLY complex, long word forms, as in the CONSTRUCTIONS typical of many American Indian languages, and encountered occasionally in English, in coinages such as *anti/dis-establish/ment/arian/ism/s*. Some linguists, however, prefer to see such constructions handled as a complex of **incorporated** AGGLUTINATIVE and FUSIONAL characteristics, and do not regard this category of language as typologically distinct. As always in such classifications, the categories are not clear-cut: different languages will display the characteristic of **incorporation** to a greater or lesser degree.

**incorporation** (*n.*) (**inc**) In the study of WORD-FORMATION, a general term for any kind of MORPHOLOGICAL element found within a WORD (especially, within a VERB). PRONOUNS and PARTICLES are among the elements which may be **incorporated**, but the term is specifically used for **noun incorporation**, where a noun STEM is used within a verb to form a complex verb. The process carries a variety of functions, such as narrowing the SEMANTIC range of the verb, or varying the INFORMATION structure of the sentence. Incorporation has been much discussed in linguistic theory because of its unclear status in relation to the LEXICON (where it can be handled as a process of DERIVATION) or the SYNTAX (where it can be handled as a result of MOVEMENT TRANSFORMATIONS).

**indefinite** (*adj.*) (**indef**) A term used in GRAMMAR and SEMANTICS to refer to an entity (or class of entities) which is not capable of specific identification; it is contrasted with DEFINITE. Indefiniteness in English is usually conveyed through the use of the indefinite ARTICLE, *a*, or an indefinite PRONOUN (such as *one*, *some*, etc.). **Non-definite** is often used as a synonym, but some linguists make a difference between ‘non-definite’ and ‘indefinite’ reference. However, the distinction between definite and indefinite is not a straightforward one, given the many LINGUISTIC and EXTRALINGUISTIC CONTEXTUAL variables which operate. See also SPECIFIC INDEFINITE.

**indefinite vowel** see SCHWA

**independent clause** see CLAUSE

**indeterminacy** (*n.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS to refer to a state of affairs in linguistic study in which there is uncertainty on the part of a NATIVE-SPEAKER, or disagreement between native-speakers, as to what is GRAMMATICAL or ACCEPTABLE; or in which there is uncertainty on the part of a linguist, or between several linguists, as to how and where a boundary line between different types of STRUCTURE might best be drawn. Indeterminacy poses a major difficulty for linguistic theories which attempt to define the limits of grammaticality in an unequivocal way (as in GENERATIVE grammar). It is a major focus of attention in NON-DISCRETE or FUZZY GRAMMAR, and several analytical notions have been proposed to handle **indeterminate** phenomena (e.g. GRADIENCE, SQUISH).

**index** (*n.*) see AFFIX, INDEXICAL, INDEXING, REFERENTIAL INDICES, STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION

**indexical** (*adj.*) (1) A term used by some LINGUISTS to refer to features of speech or writing which reveal the personal (biological, psychological or social) characteristics of a LANGUAGE user, as in VOICE QUALITY or handwriting. More generally, the term may be used to refer to the membership-identifying characteristics of a group, such as regional, social or occupational **indices**.

(2) The philosophical use of this term (either alone, or in the phrase **indexical expression**) is sometimes encountered in LINGUISTICS to refer to those features of language which refer directly to characteristics of the SITUATION within which an UTTERANCE takes place; their meaning is thus relative to that situation. Linguists more regularly refer to these features as DEICTIC features. **Pure indexical** is sometimes used for those indexical EXPRESSIONS whose REFERENCE is fixed automatically by the time, place, etc. of utterance, such as *yesterday*; it contrasts with DEMONSTRATIVE.

**indexing** (*n.*) An application of the general use of this term in GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS to refer to the numerical or literal markers attached to a set of items in a SENTENCE, to show identity or difference of REFERENCE. The indices are known more explicitly as **referential indices**. In later work, **indexing rules** ASSIGN numerical or literal indices to NOUN PHRASES in a sentence to ensure that the correct SEMANTIC relations of **co-reference** are represented – a process which has come to be known as CO-INDEXING. The CONDITIONS which restrict the application of indexing rules are known as BINDING conditions.

**indicative** (*adj.*) (**indic**, **INDIC**) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL CLASSIFICATION of SENTENCE types, and usually seen in contrast to IMPERATIVE, SUBJUNCTIVE, etc., MOODS. It refers to VERB forms or sentence/CLAUSE types used in the expression of STATEMENTS and QUESTIONS, e.g. *the horse is walking*. With reference to statements, the term ‘declarative’ may be used.

**indicator** (*n.*) In SOCIOLINGUISTICS, a term which refers to a linguistic VARIABLE which conveys little or no social import, people being largely unaware of the distinction or its distribution within the speech community. An example is the contrast some speakers make between the vowels in *cot* and *caught* in US



English. William Labov (b. 1927) distinguishes indicators from MARKERS and STEREOTYPES.

**indices** (*n.*) see INDEXICAL (1), INDEXING, REFERENTIAL INDICES

**indirect** (*adj.*) (1) A term used in GRAMMATICAL description to refer to one of the two types of OBJECT ELEMENT which can function in CLAUSE STRUCTURE, the other being labelled DIRECT; traditionally considered a DATIVE function. **Indirect objects** (IO) in English usually appear before the direct object (e.g. *the woman gave the boy a book*), but may also follow it (e.g. *the woman gave a book to the boy*). This traditional use of the term applies to the ‘recipient’ NOUN PHRASE in DITRANSITIVE constructions regardless of its position. By contrast, GENERATIVE grammar (especially RELATIONAL GRAMMAR), uses the term in a more restricted way, only for the COMPLEMENT of the PREPOSITION (usually *to*), as in *The woman gave a book to the boy*. In relational grammar, the indirect object can be promoted and become a direct object, while the original direct object becomes a CHÔMEUR.

(2) A term used in some approaches to GRAMMAR for a QUESTION which functions as a SUBORDINATE CLAUSE; in GENERATIVE linguistics often called an **embedded question**. Examples include *Do you know [where Mary is going]* and *I know [what I want]*.

(3) The opposition between direct and indirect is also used to identify the two main ways of reflecting a person’s speech: **indirect speech** (or ‘reported speech’) refers to the use of a grammatical CONSTRUCTION where the WORDS of the speaker are SUBORDINATED to a VERB in a main CLAUSE, e.g. *she said that she had a cold*, where the ‘direct speech’ would have been *I have a cold*.

(4) In the classification of SPEECH ACTS, **indirect** refers to an UTTERANCE whose linguistic FORM does not directly reflect its communicative purpose, as when *I’m feeling cold* functions as a request for someone to close a door. If, on the other hand, someone produced the same sentence to express, literally, the fact that he or she was feeling cold, then the speech act would be ‘direct’ – an assertion.

**individual concept** A term used in POSSIBLE-WORLDS SEMANTICS referring to a FUNCTION which maps possible worlds (or world–time pairs) onto individuals. Such functions serve as the INTENSIONS of PROPER NAMES and similar EXPRESSIONS.

**individual level** In SEMANTIC theory, a term used for PREDICATES representing typically long-lived properties which produce GENERIC readings when combined with BARE PLURAL NOUN PHRASES. For example, in the sentence *Dogs like meat*, the predicate expresses a permanent property of dogs, whereas in *Dogs are barking outside* the predicate expresses a temporary property (a STAGE-1 level predicate).

**ineffability** (*n.*) In OPTIMALITY THEORY, a term describing the situation which arises when the application of a set of CONSTRAINTS to a particular INPUT yields no acceptable OUTPUT. The adjectival use is **ineffable**.

**inessive** (*adj./n.*) A term used in GRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTION to refer to a type of INFLECTION which expresses the meaning of location or position within a place. The inessive CASE (‘the inessive’) is found in Finnish, for example, along

with **ADESSIVE**, **ALLATIVE** and several other cases expressing 'local' temporal and spatial meanings.

**infelicitous utterance** see **FELICITY CONDITIONS**

**infinitival** (*adj./n.*) see **INFINITIVE**

**infinitive** (*n.*) (**inf**, **INF**) A traditional term for the non-FINITE FORM of the VERB usually cited as its UNMARKED or BASE form, e.g. *go*, *walk*, *kick*, though some LANGUAGES mark it SYNTACTICALLY or MORPHOLOGICALLY. In English, the infinitive form may be used alone or in conjunction with the PARTICLE *to* (the **to infinitive**), e.g. *he saw her go v. he wants to go*. The form without *to* is sometimes known as the **bare** or **zero infinitive**. Inserting an ADVERB or other element between the *to* and the verb results in the **split infinitive**. In GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY, the term **infinitive** (or **infinitival**) **clause** is used for constructions with *to*-infinitive.

**infix** (*n.*) A term used in MORPHOLOGY referring to an AFFIX which is added within a ROOT or STEM. The process of **infixation** (or **infixing**) is not encountered in European LANGUAGES, but it is commonly found in Asian, American Indian and African languages (e.g. Arabic).

**INFL** /'ɪnfəl/ see **INFLECTION** (2)

**inflected/inflecting language** see **INFLECTION** (3)

**inflection/inflexion** (*n.*) (1) A term used in MORPHOLOGY to refer to one of the two main CATEGORIES or processes of WORD-FORMATION (**inflectional morphology**), the other being DERIVATION(AL). These terms also apply to the two types of AFFIX involved in word-formation. Inflectional affixes signal GRAMMATICAL relationships, such as plural, past TENSE and possession, and do not change the grammatical CLASS of the STEMS to which they are attached; that is, the words constitute a single PARADIGM, e.g. *walk*, *walks*, *walked*. A word is said to **inflect** for past tense, plural, etc. In traditional (pre-linguistic) grammatical studies, the term 'accidence' was used in this sense, as was the term **flexion**.

(2) (**INFL**, **I**) A term used in GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY (at first symbolized as INFL, later as I) for an abstract CONSTITUENT which subsumes various grammatical properties – in particular, tense, PERSON and NUMBER (the latter two being separately grouped as AGREEMENT features, or AGR). In X-BAR theory, I is like the LEXICAL categories N, V, A and P in that it is a ZERO-level category with two PHRASAL PROJECTIONS, *I'* and *I''*. *I''*, the maximal projection of I, is usually referred to as **inflection phrase** (**IP**). It is equivalent to S in earlier GB and certain other theories.

(3) In the phrase **inflecting language** (**inflectional** or **inflected languages**), the term characterizes a type of LANGUAGE established by COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS using STRUCTURAL (as opposed to DIACHRONIC) criteria, and focusing on the characteristics of the WORD. In this kind of language, words display grammatical relationships morphologically: they typically contain more than one MORPHEME but, unlike AGGLUTINATIVE languages, there is no one-to-one correspondence

between these morphemes and the linear SEQUENCE of MORPHS. In languages such as Latin, Greek and Arabic, the inflectional forms of words may represent several morphological OPPOSITIONS, e.g. in Latin *amo* ('I love'), the form simultaneously represents tense, ACTIVE, first person singular, INDICATIVE. This 'fusing' of properties has led to such languages being called FUSIONAL, and has motivated the WORD-AND-PARADIGM MODEL of analysis. As always in such classifications, the categories are not clear-cut: different languages will display the characteristic of inflection to a greater or lesser degree.

**inflectional language** see INFLECTION (3)

**inflection phrase** see INFLECTION (2)

**informality** (*n.*) see FORMALITY

**informant** (*n.*) Someone who acts as a source of DATA for LINGUISTIC analysis, usually a NATIVE-SPEAKER of a LANGUAGE. Linguists may act in this way, but more usually an attempt is made to construct or verify hypotheses by referring directly to a range of informants, who provide, it is hoped, a representative sample of the language one is investigating. In fieldwork on previously unstudied languages, the informant is of fundamental importance, and several sophisticated techniques for ELICITING relevant but natural data from informants have now been devised. Informants' judgements about the ACCEPTABILITY of sentences are known as INTUITIONS (especially in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR). Since the early 1980s, some linguists have preferred to use the term **consultant**, reflecting the collaborative nature of the work.

**information** (*n.*) LINGUISTICS has made several uses of this fundamental concept, both in a general sense, and also as formalized in statistical terms, derived from the mathematical theory of COMMUNICATION. Ideas derived from information theory (as formulated originally by Claude Shannon and Warren Weaver in their book *The Mathematical Theory of Communication* (1949)) have been applied in PHONETICS (e.g. in analysing the amount of information carried by the various features of the sound wave), GRAMMAR (e.g. in studies of the predictability of various parts of a SENTENCE) and SEMANTICS (e.g. in applying the notion of 'choice' between alternatives in the analysis of semantic CONTRASTS, as in DYNAMIC semantics). The concept of REDUNDANCY, for example, ultimately derives from this approach.

In its general sense, the term is used by several linguists as a basis for a theoretical account of the STRUCTURE of messages. It is postulated that speech can be seen as displaying an **information structure**, encoding the relative salience of the elements in a message, with formally identifiable **units of information**. INTONATION provides the main signal for such UNITS. The TONE UNIT represents an information unit, and the NUCLEAR tone marks the information FOCUS. Many sentences will be single units of information, e.g. *the box on the table is ready for posting!*, but altering the intonation, in this view, alters the number of information units, e.g. *the box on the table is ready for posting!*. Even if one tone unit is retained, altering the TONICITY will change the information structure, e.g. *the box on the table is ready for posting!* (i.e. not the envelope). The further analysis

of information structure is complex and controversial: a common next step is to distinguish between GIVEN and NEW information. Analysts who use this approach (e.g. HALLIDAYAN linguists) usually distinguish between information structure and THEMATIC and grammatical structure.

**-ing form** A term used in English GRAMMATICAL description to refer to the FORM of the VERB ending in *-ing*, e.g. *going*, *smoking*. Many such forms can be used without change as NOUNS (e.g. *smoking is prohibited*), and the purpose of the term is to provide a neutral DESCRIPTIVE label for this feature of English, thus avoiding the use of such traditional notions as ‘gerund’, which were originally devised for Latin grammar. In classical TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR, *-ing* noun forms were transformationally derived from the related verb forms.

**ingressive** (*adj./n.*) A term used in the PHONETIC classification of speech sounds, referring to all sounds produced using an inwards-moving AIRSTREAM MECHANISM. The opposite category is EGRESSIVE, which is the normal mode for speech production. Ingressive sounds (‘ingressives’) are often heard incidentally, as when one speaks while breathing in, when out of breath, or vocalizes upon a sudden intake of breath when expressing pain or surprise. Two types of ingressive sound are used as part of the PHONEMIC systems of some LANGUAGES: IMPLOSIVE CONSONANTS such as [ɠ], [ɗ] [ɓ], made by an inward flow of air in conjunction with GLOTTAL vibration; and VELARIC consonants, which constitute such CLICK sounds as [ǀ] (as in ‘tut tut’), made by an inward flow of air in conjunction with contact made at the velum.

**inherent Case** see CASE (2)

**inherent features** A term used in some MODELS of GENERATIVE GRAMMAR (see ASPECTS MODEL) to refer to one of the types of (BINARY) FEATURES which are contained in a LEXICAL entry (the others being CONTEXTUAL and RULE features), and which provides information about the essential characteristics of an ITEM likely to affect its SYNTACTIC functioning, e.g. [+human], [+abstract], [+male]. These features are involved at several points in an analysis, e.g. in specifying SELECTIONAL restrictions and in some non-lexical TRANSFORMATIONS.

**inheritance** (*n.*) A term used in several domains of LINGUISTICS to refer to the passing on of information from one part of a structural REPRESENTATION to another. For example, in SEMANTICS, the relationship between subtype and TYPE (e.g. *fish* and *food*) can be characterized as the subtype **inheriting** all the properties of its supertypes. In GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, inheritance refers to the preservation of ARGUMENT structure under certain conditions (e.g. a NOMINALIZATION of a VERB, such as *running*, preserves the arguments of the input verb). In some models of NON-LINEAR PHONOLOGY, information can be inherited between certain types of unit in a PROSODIC HIERARCHY. An **inheritance hierarchy** is also recognized in some approaches to SYNTAX, referring to the organization of elements of a DOMAIN in a system of natural classes.

**inheritance principle** see BINDING

**initial** (*adj.*) The usual way of referring to the first ELEMENT in a LINGUISTIC UNIT, especially in PHONOLOGY. For example, the PHONEME /k/ occurs 'in initial position' (or 'initially') in the word *cat*; the word *the* occurs in initial position in the PHRASE *the big house*. Other positions are referred to as MEDIAL and FINAL. Other linguistic features which occur in this position are sometimes labelled accordingly, e.g. 'initial STRESS' (i.e. stress on the first SYLLABLE in a WORD).

**initialism** (*n.*) see ABBREVIATION

**initial symbol** The first, undefined term in a GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, employed in early PHRASE-STRUCTURE GRAMMARS, which appears on the left-hand side of the first REWRITE RULE. Standing for SENTENCE, the highest-level CONSTRUCTION recognized by the grammar, it has been symbolized as  $\Sigma$ ,  $S'$  or CP. The contrast implied is with TERMINAL symbols, the items which occur in a terminal STRING generated by the grammar. Other starting-points than sentence have occasionally been suggested.

**initiator** (*n.*) A term in PHONETICS for a VOCAL ORGAN which is the source of air movement. The lungs are the normal initiators for speech, but other AIRSTREAM MECHANISMS can be used. **Initiation**, from an aerodynamic point of view, is comparable to a bellows or piston.

**innateness** (*n.*) An application of the philosophical use of this term in PSYCHOLINGUISTICS, referring to the view that the child is born with a biological predisposition to learn LANGUAGE. The **innateness hypothesis** (or **nativist hypothesis**) argues that the rapid and complex development of children's GRAMMATICAL COMPETENCE can be explained only by the hypothesis that they are born with an **innate** knowledge of at least some of the UNIVERSAL STRUCTURAL principles of human language. This view has received considerable support in GENERATIVE linguistics (see language ACQUISITION DEVICE), but controversy abounds over the nature of the early linguistic knowledge which might be attributable to the child, and whether this knowledge can be specified independently of other (e.g. cognitive) factors.

**input** (*n.*) (1) A term used in PSYCHOLINGUISTICS to refer to the external linguistic DATA available to speakers in the course of acquiring a language. The notion is particularly relevant to child language ACQUISITION of a mother-tongue, where the role of input is related to other factors in learning, such as innate ability (see INNATENESS); but it also applies in the study of foreign language learning.

(2) A use of the general sense of this term is found in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR for a linguistic construct which triggers the application of a RULE, either as the starting point in the generation of a sentence or at a later stage in a DERIVATION. It contrasts with OUTPUT, which may be a derived linguistic construct or (after all rules have been applied) a REPRESENTATION of what people actually say. In this approach, the input to a rule is typically the output of an earlier rule.

(3) In OPTIMALITY THEORY (OT), an **input** is a linguistic construct, composed from the elements in UNIVERSAL GRAMMAR (consonant, vowel, syllable, noun, verb, etc.), to which OUTPUT REPRESENTATIONS are related. This process takes place through the operation of the GENERATOR and EVALUATOR mechanisms provided

by the theory. The optimal input is selected from all possible inputs (corresponding to a single output) as the one which incurs the fewest highest-ranked CONSTRAINT VIOLATIONS. The OT perspective therefore runs contrary to the traditional GENERATIVE approach, for it does not require a unique input for a given output. Any input which results in a correct input–output pairing is a viable input.

**insertion** (*n.*) A basic SYNTACTIC operation within the framework of TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR which introduces (**inserts**) a new STRUCTURAL ELEMENT into a STRING; specific types of example include ‘DO-insertion’, ‘NEGATIVE (*neg-*) insertion’, ‘*there*-insertion’ (which inserts an EMPTY *there* in SUBJECT position in STATEMENTS, e.g. *there was a cat in the garden*) and ‘lexical insertion’ (which inserts LEXICAL ITEMS at particular places in grammatical structure).

**in situ** /In 'sɪtʃu:/ A term used in GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY to describe a CONSTITUENT that stays in its place. For example, *wh-* **in situ** refers to a *wh*-element which cannot be moved because another such element occupies its landing site (see MOVEMENT). In *I asked who had driven what*, *what* cannot move because of the presence of *who*.

**instantaneous** (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in the DISTINCTIVE FEATURE theory of PHONOLOGY, as part of the phrase **instantaneous release**, referring to a sound released suddenly, without the ACOUSTIC turbulence of a FRICATIVE, as in PLOSIVE CONSONANTS. Its opposite is DELAYED RELEASE, used to characterize AFFRICATES.

**institutional linguistics** A developing branch of LINGUISTICS in which the focus is on the language used in professional contexts, such as law, medicine, education and business. As other domains of linguistic enquiry (e.g. SOCIOLINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS) also study such contexts, the term is not in widespread use.

**instrumental** (*adj./n.*) (**inst**, **INST**) In languages which express GRAMMATICAL relationships by means of INFLECTIONS, this term refers to the FORM taken by a NOUN PHRASE (often a single noun or PRONOUN), when it expresses such a notion as ‘by means of’ (as in Russian). The term has a special status in CASE grammar, where it refers to the SEMANTIC case of the INANIMATE entity causally involved in a verb’s action (e.g. *the key* in *the key opened the door* or *the door was opened with a key*), and is contrasted with AGENTIVE, DATIVE, etc. The instrumental case (‘the instrumental’) is also used in some predicative constructions in Russian, such as with the future and past of ‘to be’, e.g. *On budet studentom* ‘He will be a student’.

**instrumental phonetics** see PHONETICS

**intensifier** (*n.*) A term used in some GRAMMATICAL classifications of WORDS to refer to a CLASS of ADVERBS which have a heightening or lowering effect on the MEANING of another ELEMENT in the SENTENCE. **Intensifying** adverbs include *very*, *terribly*, *definitely*, *hardly* and *kind of*.

**intension** (*n.*) (1) A term used in philosophy and logic, and now often used as part of a theoretical framework for LINGUISTIC SEMANTICS, to refer to the set of

defining properties which determines the APPLICABILITY of a term. For example, 'legs', 'flat surface', etc., define the intension of *table*, and an **intensional definition** would be based on such notions, e.g. 'A table is something with legs, a flat surface, etc.' It is opposed to EXTENSION.

(2) **Intension** is also used in SEMANTICS to refer to the SENSE of an EXPRESSION, especially when modelled as a FUNCTION from INDICES to EXTENSIONS, as in POSSIBLE-WORLDS SEMANTICS. For 'intensional contexts', see OPAQUE (3).

**intensity** (*n.*) see LOUDNESS

**intensive** (*adj.*) A term used in some GRAMMATICAL analyses to refer to STRUCTURES where there is a close SEMANTIC identity between ELEMENTS of structure, such as between SUBJECT and COMPLEMENT (e.g. *she is a dentist*), between OBJECT and complement (e.g. *they called him Fred*) or in APPPOSITION (e.g. *John the butcher . . .*). The verbs involved in **intensive constructions** are called **intensive verbs** or 'linking verbs'. In GOVERNMENT-BINDING THEORY some of these constructions are analysed as SMALL CLAUSES. The term is opposed to EXTENSIVE.

**interaction** (*n.*) An application of the general use of this term in SOCIOLINGUISTICS, to refer to the study of speech in face-to-face communication (**interactional sociolinguistics**). The approach deals chiefly with the norms and strategies of everyday conversation, and is characterized by detailed TRANSCRIPTIONS of taped interactions, with particular reference to features which have been traditionally neglected in the analysis of conversation, such as PROSODY, facial expression, silence and rhythmical patterns of behaviour between the participants. In contrast to other kinds of CONVERSATION ANALYSIS, particular attention is paid to the social factors which help to shape the interaction, such as the desire by the participants to maintain politeness (see FACE) or to recognize mutual rights and obligations.

**interchangeability** (*n.*) A suggested defining property of a SEMIOTIC SYSTEM, including human LANGUAGE, to refer to the system's ability to be mutually transmitted and received by members of the same species. Some animal signals, by contrast, lack this property – for example, female calls which are not shared by the male members of the species.

**interclausal grammar** see ROLE AND REFERENCE GRAMMAR

**interdental** (*adj./n.*) A term used in the PHONETIC classification of CONSONANT sounds, referring to a sound made by the TIP of the TONGUE between the teeth. Interdental sounds ('interdentals') are heard in the RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION of English *th* /θ/ and /ð/.

**interface** (*n.*) In the MINIMALIST PROGRAMME, a term describing the status of the two LEVELS of REPRESENTATION recognized in the approach: LOGICAL FORM (LF) and PHONETIC FORM (PF). Their role is to connect linguistic representations to interpretation elsewhere: LF interfaces with the conceptual systems of cognition, and PF interfaces with articulatory and perceptual systems of speech production/perception.

**interference** (*n.*) A term used in SOCIOLINGUISTICS and foreign-language learning to refer to the ERRORS a speaker introduces into one LANGUAGE as a result of contact with another language; also called **negative transfer** (see CONTRASTIVE (2)). The most common source of error is in the process of learning a foreign language, where the native tongue interferes; but interference may occur in other CONTACT situations (as in MULTILINGUALISM).

**interjection** (*n.*) A term used in the TRADITIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PARTS OF SPEECH, referring to a CLASS OF WORDS which are UNPRODUCTIVE, do not enter into SYNTACTIC relationships with other classes, and whose FUNCTION is purely EMOTIVE, e.g. *Yuk!*, *Strewth!*, *Blast!*, *Tut tut!* There is an unclear boundary between these ITEMS and other types of EXCLAMATION, where some REFERENTIAL MEANING may be involved, and where there may be more than one word, e.g. *Excellent!*, *Lucky devil!*, *Cheers!*, *Well well!* Several alternative ways of analysing these items have been suggested, using such notions as MINOR SENTENCE, FORMULAIC LANGUAGE, etc.

**interlanguage** (*n.*) The linguistic SYSTEM created by someone in the course of learning a foreign LANGUAGE, different from either the speaker's first language or the target language being acquired. It reflects the learner's evolving system of RULES, and results from a variety of processes, including the influence of the first language ('transfer'), CONTRASTIVE interference from the target language, and the OVERGENERALIZATION of newly encountered rules.

**inter-level** (*n.*) A term used in HALLIDAYAN LINGUISTICS referring to a LEVEL of analysis lying in between the main levels recognized by the theory. In this view, PHONOLOGY would be seen as an inter-level relating PHONIC/GRAPHIC SUBSTANCE and linguistic FORM. See also HARMONIC PHONOLOGY.

**interlingua** (*n.*) (1) A term used in machine translation for a proposed intermediate REPRESENTATION constructed to facilitate the automatic translation of one language into another. In an **interlingual** approach, the source language is given a highly abstract representation which captures all the SYNTACTIC and SEMANTIC information necessary for translation into several target languages. The interlingua would usually be a specially constructed FORMAL language, but other ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGES have been proposed (such as Esperanto), and in theory a natural language could also be used. The difficulty of developing a model of syntactic or semantic UNIVERSALS has limited the applicability of this approach.

(2) See LINGUA FRANCA.

**intermediate** (*adj.*) (1) A term used in the PHONETIC classification of VOWEL QUALITIES, to refer to a vowel which falls between two adjacent CARDINAL VOWELS. The vowel which occurs in the centre of the cardinal vowel area (see SCHWA) is also sometimes referred to as an **intermediate vowel**.

(2) In X-BAR theory, a 'small' phrase – larger than the lexical category (zero-level projection) and smaller than the maximal projection (usually X-double-bar, or XP) – is called an **intermediate projection**.

**internal adequacy** see ADEQUACY



**internal argument** see ARGUMENT

**internal evidence** In HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS and PHILOLOGY, a term summarizing the linguistic features in a text which indicate when or where the work was written, or who the author was. Handwriting, idiosyncratic spellings and other features of GRAPHIC SUBSTANCE play an important role, as do favourite patterns of VOCABULARY and GRAMMAR. A contrast is intended with **external evidence**, such as might come from historical records or archeological findings.

**internalize** (*v.*) A term used in GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS to refer to the process whereby speakers come to possess knowledge of the STRUCTURE of their LANGUAGE. The term is primarily used in the context of language ACQUISITION, where children are said to 'internalize' RULES, as when the use of such FORMS as \**mans* and \**mices* shows that a plural formation RULE has been acquired. COMPETENCE, on this account, can be seen as a SYSTEM of internalized rules.

**internalized language** see I-LANGUAGE

**internal open juncture** see JUNCTURE (1)

**internal reconstruction** see COMPARATIVE (1), RECONSTRUCTION

**internal sandhi** see SANDHI

**internal syllabus** see NATURAL ORDER HYPOTHESIS

**International Phonetic Association (IPA)** An organization founded in 1886 by a group of European phoneticians (Paul Passy (1859–1940) and others) to promote the study of PHONETICS. In 1889 it published the **International Phonetic Alphabet** (also IPA) which, in modified and expanded form, is today the most widely used system for transcribing the sounds of a LANGUAGE (see TRANSCRIPTION). See p. xxv of this dictionary.

**interpersonal** (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in SEMANTICS as part of a classification of types of MEANING. It refers to those aspects of meaning which relate to the establishing and maintaining of social relations, e.g. social roles, STYLISTIC LEVEL, the expression of personality. Some scholars also subsume EXPRESSIVE meaning under this heading. An alternative view sees the LINGUISTIC expression of social relationships as being a matter of SOCIOLINGUISTIC or PRAGMATIC FUNCTION, and not semantics.

**interpretation** (*n.*) see TRANSLATOLOGY

**interpretation function** In MODEL-THEORETIC SEMANTICS, a term referring to a FUNCTION which maps EXPRESSIONS onto their SEMANTIC VALUES. In particular, it forms one of the basic components of a MODEL, mapping each non-LOGICAL CONSTANT BASIC EXPRESSION onto its semantic value.

**interpretive/interpretative** (*adj.*) A term used in GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS to refer to a mode of relationship between LEVELS OF REPRESENTATION. Its original

use can be defined with reference to the STANDARD THEORY of generative GRAMMAR. Here, the SEMANTIC RULES which relate SYNTACTIC DEEP STRUCTURE to the semantic COMPONENT, and the PHONOLOGICAL rules which relate syntactic SURFACE STRUCTURES to the phonological component, are both interpretive, i.e. they **interpret** the output of the syntactic structures by ASSIGNING them a (semantic or PHONETIC) representation, which is the basis from which the MEANING and pronunciation of the sentence is derived. In the **interpretive semantics** view, associated with Noam Chomsky and others, it is thus the level of syntax which contains all the generative POWER of the grammar. In the early 1970s, the term came to characterize any MODEL of this general sort, as opposed to those which claimed that it was the syntax, and not the semantics, which was interpretive – the view of GENERATIVE SEMANTICS.

**interrogative** (*adj./n.*) (**inter**, **interrog**) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL classification of SENTENCE types, and usually seen in contrast to DECLARATIVE. It refers to VERB FORMS or sentence/CLAUSE types typically used in the expression of QUESTIONS, e.g. the inverted order of *is he coming?*, or the use of an **interrogative word**; (or simply ‘interrogative’), often subclassified as interrogative ADJECTIVES (e.g. *which*), ADVERBS (e.g. *why*) and PRONOUNS (e.g. *who*). See also WH-.

**interruptability** (*n.*) A term used in GRAMMAR to refer to a defining property of the WORD, seen as a grammatical UNIT, where it appears in the form **uninterruptability**. A more positive name for this criterion is COHESIVENESS.

**interrupted** (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in the DISTINCTIVE FEATURE theory of PHONOLOGY to refer to sounds produced with a complete CLOSURE of the VOCAL TRACT, as in PLOSIVES. Its opposite is CONTINUANT, used to characterize FRICATIVES, VOWELS, etc.

**intervocalic** (*adj.*) A term used in PHONETICS to refer to a CONSONANT sound used between two VOWELS, as in the /t/ of *attack*. The phonetic characteristics of consonants in this position are often different from those in other positions, e.g. the amount of VOICING in a voiced consonant is likely to be greater.

**intonation** (*n.*) A term used in the study of SUPRASEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY, referring to the distinctive use of patterns of PITCH, or melody. The study of intonation is sometimes called **intonology**. Several ways of analysing intonation have been suggested: in some approaches, the pitch patterns are described as CONTOURS and analysed in terms of LEVELS of pitch as pitch PHONEMES and MORPHEMES; in others, the patterns are described as TONE UNITS or tone groups, analysed further as contrasts of NUCLEAR tone, TONICITY, etc. The three variables of pitch range, height and direction are generally distinguished. Some approaches, especially within PRAGMATICS, operate with a much broader notion than that of the tone unit: **intonational phrasing** is a structured HIERARCHY of the intonational CONSTITUENTS in conversation. A formal category of **intonational phrase** is also sometimes recognized: an UTTERANCE span dominated by BOUNDARY TONES.

Intonation performs several functions in language. Its most important function is as a signal of GRAMMATICAL structure, where it performs a role similar to punctuation in writing, but involving far more contrasts. The marking of SENTENCE,

CLAUSE and other boundaries, and the contrast between some grammatical structures, such as QUESTIONS and statements, may be made using intonation. For example, the change in meaning illustrated by 'Are you asking me or telling me' is regularly signalled by a contrast between RISING and FALLING pitch, e.g. *He's going, isn't he?* (= I'm asking you) opposed to *He's going, isn't he!* (= I'm telling you). A second role of intonation is in the communication of personal attitude: sarcasm, puzzlement, anger, etc., can all be signalled by contrasts in pitch, along with other PROSODIC and PARALINGUISTIC features. Other roles of intonation in language have been suggested, e.g. as one of the ways of signalling social background.

Intonation patterns can be seen as a sequence of pitch levels, or 'tones', but this use of 'tone' has to be distinguished from that encountered in the phrase TONE LANGUAGE, where it refers to the use of pitch to make contrasts of meaning at WORD level.

**intonology** (*n.*) see INTONATION

**intralevel rules** see HARMONIC PHONOLOGY

**intransitivity** (*n.*) see TRANSITIVITY

**intrinsic** (*adj.*) (1) A term used in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, referring to a type of CONSTRAINT imposed on the ORDERING of RULES (as opposed to a CONDITION where such rules are allowed to apply in a random order). An **intrinsic ordering** is one where the FORMAL or logical properties of a SYSTEM of rules dictate the SEQUENCE in which the rules apply: one rule (B) cannot apply until after another rule (A) has operated, because A supplies B with the properties B needs for its operation. Intrinsic ordering is opposed to EXTRINSIC ordering, where the order of application is not motivated by such considerations of formal consistency; the rules could logically occur in any order, but some ordering has to be imposed (taking into account the DATA of the LANGUAGE) in order for a correct output to emerge.

(2) A term used in PHONETICS and PHONOLOGY to refer to a property of sound which is thought to be crucial to the identity of a CONTRAST. A SEGMENT of a particular type must have the property before it can be perceived to belong to that type. For example, a tiny amount of friction follows the release of a STOP consonant, but as the DURATION of this friction exceeds a certain minimal amount, so the segment will be perceived as an AFFRICATE; a longer duration will lead to its perception as a FRICATIVE. Such examples of **intrinsic duration** can also be found in VOWELS, where LOW vowels are intrinsically longer than HIGH vowels. **Intrinsic pitch** relates to high vowels having a higher PITCH than low vowels.

**intrusion** (*n.*) A term used occasionally in PHONETICS and PHONOLOGY to refer to the addition of sounds in CONNECTED SPEECH which have no basis in the pronunciation of the SYLLABLES or WORDS heard in isolation. The most well-known example in English (RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION) is of the **intrusive** /r/ which is introduced as a LINKING FORM after a VOWEL, when the following word begins with a vowel, where there is no historical justification for it (i.e. there is no *r* in the spelling). Examples such as *law (r) and order*, *India (r) and Pakistan*, and

(within word) *draw(r)ings* are common, and attract much criticism, though the frequency with which such forms are heard (the critics not excluded) indicates that the tendency of this ACCENT to link words in this way is deep-rooted. But one may hear other cases of intrusion, such as the introduction of an unstressed, SCHWA vowel between CONSONANTS in such words as *athletics* /aθəletiks/.

As with the opposite effect, ELISION, traditional rhetoric had devised a classification of types of intrusion in terms of the position of the extra sound in a word: in word-INITIAL position, it was termed *prothesis*, in word-MEDIAL position *anaptyxis* or *epenthesis*, and in word-FINAL position *paragoge*. In phonetic analyses of modern languages, too, reference to a 'prothetic' vowel or an 'epenthetic' vowel is often encountered.

**intrusive r** see INTRUSION

**intuition** (*n.*) A term in LINGUISTICS referring to the judgement of SPEAKERS about their LANGUAGE, especially in deciding whether a SENTENCE is ACCEPTABLE or not, and how sentences are interrelated. It is sometimes referred to as TACIT knowledge, or *Sprachgefühl*. Native-speaker intuitions are always a crucial form of evidence in linguistic analysis, but they are given a special theoretical status in GENERATIVE GRAMMAR, where in his later work Noam Chomsky sees them as part of the DATA which the grammar has to account for. It is important, in discussion of this topic, to distinguish the **intuitive** responses of the native-speaker from those of the linguist – a distinction which can be easily confused when linguists are investigating their own language. Linguists' intuitions concerning the accuracy or elegance of their analyses are quite different in kind from those of non-linguists, whose intuitions concern the sameness, difference and relatedness of MEANINGS.

**invariable** (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in the GRAMMATICAL classification of WORDS to refer to one of two postulated major WORD-CLASSES in LANGUAGE, the other being VARIABLE. Invariable or **invariant** words are said to be those which are used without any MORPHOLOGICAL change, e.g. *under, but, them*. Variable words, by contrast, INFLECT, e.g. *house/houses, sit/sat . . .*

**invariance** (*n.*) A principle in some approaches to PHONOLOGY whereby each PHONEME is seen as having a set of defining PHONETIC FEATURES, such that whenever a phoneme occurs the corresponding features will occur. Along with the conditions of LINEARITY and BIUNIQUENESS, the invariance principle establishes a view of phonemic analysis which has been criticized by GENERATIVE phonologists, as part of a general attack on TAXONOMIC phonemics.

**invariant** (*adj.*) see INVARIABLE, INVARIANCE

**inventory** (*n.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS and PHONETICS to refer to an unordered listing of the ITEMS belonging to a particular LEVEL or area of DESCRIPTION in a LANGUAGE; e.g. the listing of the PHONEMES of English would constitute that language's 'phonemic inventory'.

**inversion** (*n.*) A term used in GRAMMATICAL analysis to refer to the process or result of SYNTACTIC change in which a specific SEQUENCE of CONSTITUENTS is

seen as the reverse of another. In English, for example, one of the main ways of forming QUESTIONS is by inverting the order of SUBJECT and AUXILIARY, e.g. *Is he going?*

**IPA** see INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ASSOCIATION

**irrealis** /ɪrɪˈɑ:lɪs/ (*adj.*) see REALIS

**irregular** (*adj.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS to refer to a linguistic FORM which is an exception to the pattern stated in a RULE. For example, VERBS such as *took*, *went*, *saw*, etc., are irregular, because they do not follow the rule which forms the past TENSE by adding *-ed*. GRAMMAR is concerned with the discovery of REGULAR PATTERNS in linguistic DATA: lists of **irregularities** are usually avoided, and handled by incorporating the exceptional information into a dictionary entry.

**-ise/-ize** In PHONETICS, a SUFFIX used to identify the place or process of ARTICULATION of a secondary STRUCTURE, as in ‘labialize’, ‘velarized’ (see SECONDARY ARTICULATION); an associated process suffix is **-isation/-ization**. For example, [tʰ] would be described as a ‘palatalized t’. Both dynamic and static interpretations are used: a sound is described as ‘labialized’ both (a) during the process of labialization, and (b) once that process is over.

(2) In HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS and SOCIOLINGUISTICS, a SUFFIX used to characterize a change of a sound from one place of ARTICULATION to another: for example, a change from [k] to [c] or [t] to [c] could be described as a process of ‘palatalization’. This sense needs to be kept clearly distinct from (1) above: the palatalization of [t] as [tʰ] is very different from [t] as [c].

**island** (*n.*) A term originally used in TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR to refer to a structure out of which CONSTITUENTS cannot be moved by any MOVEMENT RULE; more generally, a constituent across whose boundary certain relations between two ELEMENTS cannot be held. For example, the constituents of a RELATIVE CLAUSE cannot be moved out of the clause: in the sentence *I saw the person who bought my car*, the relative-clause constituents cannot be moved to other positions in the sentence without producing an unacceptable sentence. Other structures which may have been proposed as islands are NOUN-COMPLEMENT clauses (e.g. *The fact that Mary was angry surprised me*), SUBJECT NOUN clauses (e.g. *What she told me was this*), CO-ORDINATE structures (e.g. *I saw Jules and Jim*) and constructions to which the A-OVER-A principle applies. The **island condition** in X-BAR SYNTAX asserts that constituents can be extracted out of complement phrases, but not out of subject/ADJUNCT phrases. See also HARMONY, WH-.

**iso-** A PREFIX used in DIALECTOLOGY as part of the labelling of the various types of LINGUISTIC information which can be displayed on maps (‘linguistic atlases’). The most widely used notion is that of the **isogloss** (or **isograph**, or **isoglottic line**), a line drawn on a map to mark the boundary of an area in which a particular linguistic feature is used. A number (or ‘bundle’) of isoglosses falling together in one place suggests the existence of a dialect boundary. Further distinctions can be made in terms of the kind of linguistic feature being isolated: an **isophone** is a line drawn to mark the limits of a PHONOLOGICAL feature: an

**isomorph** marks the limits of a MORPHOLOGICAL feature; an **isolex** marks the limits of a LEXICAL ITEM; an **isoseme** marks the limits of a SEMANTIC feature (as when lexical items of the same phonological form take on different MEANINGS in different areas). Other distinctions have been suggested, based on the same principle. An alternative terminology talks of isophonic/isomorphic/... 'lines'. An **isopleth** is a more general notion, being used by some SOCIOLINGUISTS to refer to a line which marks the limits of a linguistic feature seen in association with relevant sociocultural features. An **isolect** is a term used by some sociolinguists to refer to a linguistic VARIETY (or LECT) which differs minimally from another variety (i.e. a single isogloss, whether of a regional or a social kind, differentiates them).

**isochronism** (*n.*) see ISOCHRONY

**isochrony** (*n.*) A term used in PHONETICS and PHONOLOGY to refer to the rhythmic characteristic of some LANGUAGES; also sometimes called **isochronism**. In **isochronous** RHYTHM, the STRESSED SYLLABLES fall at approximately regular intervals throughout an UTTERANCE. This is 'subjective' isochrony, based on the perception of the listener – a more realistic interpretation of this notion than that of 'objective' isochrony, where the intervals would be measurably identical. One implication of this is that the theory predicts that unstressed syllables between stresses will be uttered in similar periods of time. If there are several unstressed syllables, accordingly, they will be articulated rapidly, to get them into the time span available. In such sentences as *The 'consequences of his 'action are 'several*, the speed of ARTICULATION of the five syllables after 'con- will be greater than the two following 'ac-. Isochrony is said to be a strong tendency in English, for example, which is accordingly referred to as a STRESS-TIMED (as opposed to a 'syllable-timed') language. The UNITS of rhythm in such languages, i.e. the distances between stressed syllables, are called FEET (see FOOT) by some phoneticians. The theory is not without its critics, who doubt the extent of the principle's applicability, given the many variations in TEMPO heard in speech.

**isogloss, isograph** (*n.*), **isoglottic line** see ISO-

**isolate** (*n.*) In COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS, a term for a LANGUAGE with little or no structural or historical relationship to any other language; also called an **isolated language** or a **language isolate**. Many such cases have been noted. They include languages which remain undeciphered, languages where there is insufficient material available to establish a family relationship, and languages where, despite a great deal of data, the relationship is undetermined.

**isolated** (*adj.*) A type of OPPOSITION recognized in PRAGUE SCHOOL PHONOLOGY, distinguished from PROPORTIONAL. The opposition between English /v/ and /l/ is isolated, because there are no other segments that are contrasted in this particular way, i.e. VOICED LABIO-DENTAL FRICATIVE *v.* voiced LATERAL. The opposition between /f/ and /v/, however, is proportional, because there are other oppositions in the language which work in parallel, e.g. /s/ *v.* /z/, /θ/ *v.* /ð/.

**isolated language** see ISOLATE

**isolating** (*adj.*) A term which characterizes a type of LANGUAGE established by COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS using STRUCTURAL (as opposed to DIACHRONIC) criteria, and focusing on the characteristics of the WORD: in **isolating languages**, all the words are invariable (and SYNTACTIC relationships are primarily shown by WORD-ORDER). Vietnamese, Chinese and many South-East Asian languages are often cited as good instances of isolating languages. As always with such general classifications, the CATEGORIES are not clear-cut: different languages will display the characteristics of **isolation** to a greater or lesser degree. An alternative term is ANALYTIC, seen as opposed to SYNTHETIC types of language (AGGLUTINATIVE and INFLECTING), where words contain more than one MORPHEME.

**isolation** (*adj.*) see ISOLATING

**isolect, isolex, isomorph, isophone, isopleth, isoseme** (*n.*) see ISO-

**isomorphism** (*n.*) A property of two or more STRUCTURES whose CONSTITUENT parts are in a one-to-one correspondence with each other, at a given level of abstraction. For example, a SYNTACTIC and a SEMANTIC analysis would be **isomorphic** if for each syntactic UNIT there were a corresponding semantic unit, e.g. SUBJECT+VERB+OBJECT: ACTOR+action+goal. Likewise, a structural isomorphism may occur between LANGUAGES or DIALECTS, e.g. in VOCABULARY (the kinship terms in language X may be isomorphic with those in language Y).

**isosyllabism, isosyllabicity** (*n.*) see SYLLABLE-TIMED

**item** (*n.*) A term used in LINGUISTICS to refer to an individual linguistic FORM, from the viewpoint of its occurrence in an inventory and not in a CLASSIFICATION. For example, the vocabulary of a LANGUAGE, as listed in a dictionary, can be seen as a set of 'LEXICAL items' (e.g. the headwords in this dictionary). GRAMMATICAL and PHONOLOGICAL UNITS may also be listed as items, though this is less common, as they are more readily analysable into classes.

**item and arrangement (IA)** A MODEL of description used in MORPHOLOGY for the analysis of WORDS (and sometimes in SYNTAX for larger GRAMMATICAL UNITS). In this approach, words are seen as linear SEQUENCES ('arrangements') of MORPHS ('items'), e.g. *The boys kicked the ball* will be analysed as *the+boy+s+kick+ed+the+ball*. Problem cases, where this notion of sequence would not easily apply, constituted a main part of discussion in LINGUISTICS of the 1940s and 1950s, e.g. whether *mice* can be seen as *mouse* + plural. The chief alternatives to this way of proceeding are the ITEM AND PROCESS and WORD AND PARADIGM models.

**item and process (IP)** A MODEL of description used in MORPHOLOGY for the analysis of WORDS. In this approach, the relationships between words are seen as processes of DERIVATION; e.g. the 'item' *took* is derived from the item *take* by a 'process' involving VOWEL change. For some LINGUISTS this label is applicable to any approach which makes use of derivational processes in its formulation, such as GENERATIVE grammar; but its original use was in the context of morphology.

**iteration** (*n.*) A term sometimes used in LINGUISTICS as an alternative to RECURSION – the repeated application of a RULE in the GENERATION of a SENTENCE. **Iterative** rules are especially used in PHONOLOGY, where a particular process (such as vowel HARMONY or STRESS assignment) needs to be applied repeatedly in a word or phrase.

**iterative** (*adj.*) (1) A term used in the GRAMMATICAL analysis of ASPECT, to refer to an event which takes place repeatedly, e.g. ‘jump several times’. Iterative in this context often contrasts with SEMELFACTIVE.

(2) See ITERATION, ITERATIVITY.

**iterativity** (*n.*) In some versions of METRICAL PHONOLOGY, a PARAMETER which determines the extent to which a FOOT structure may be repeatedly applied. In **non-iterative** systems, words have a single foot at the EDGE. In **iterative** (or **bidirectional**) systems, there is a non-iterative foot assignment at one edge and an iterative foot assignment at the other.

**-ize** see -ISE/-IZE