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Katz–Postal hypothesis A proposed property of TRANSFORMATIONS claimed by the American LINGUISTS Jerrold Katz and Paul Postal in 1964 in their book *An Integrated Theory of Linguistic Descriptions*, which had considerable influence on subsequent discussions of the relationship between SYNTACTIC and SEMANTIC analysis. Essentially, the hypothesis argued that all transformations should not change MEANING (they should be MEANING-PRESERVING). In relation to the MODEL of GRAMMAR expounded by Noam Chomsky in *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* (1965), it came to be argued that whenever two SENTENCES differ in meaning they will differ in DEEP STRUCTURE; and that accordingly, from a consideration of deep structure, the grammatical meaning of a sentence can be deduced, which can then provide the input to the semantic COMPONENT. The removal of meaning-changing transformations, on this view, would thus simplify the functioning of the semantic RULES. There are, of course, several areas of syntax which provide apparent COUNTER-EXAMPLES to this hypothesis (such as TAG QUESTIONS, or the introduction of CONJUNCTIONS), and these provided the grounds of much subsequent discussion as to the validity of this and similarly motivated hypotheses. Considerable effort was made to apply the hypothesis to such cases, by reformulating the analyses (usually by adding extra ELEMENTS to the UNDERLYING structures involved).

kernel (*adj./n.*) A term used in early GENERATIVE GRAMMAR to refer to a type of STRUCTURE produced by the PHRASE-STRUCTURE RULES of a grammar. The output of these rules is a **kernel string**. The basic type of SENTENCE generated from this STRING without any OPTIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS (as defined in the *Syntactic Structures* MODEL, e.g. NEGATIVE or PASSIVE) is a **kernel sentence** – corresponding to the SIMPLE, ACTIVE, AFFIRMATIVE DECLARATIVE (SAAD) sentences of LANGUAGE. The term **kernel clause** is also sometimes used.

key (*n.*) (1) A term used by some SOCIOLINGUISTS as part of a classification of variations in spoken interaction: it refers to the tone, manner or spirit in which a SPEECH ACT is carried out, e.g. the contrast between mock and serious STYLES of activity. In a more restricted sense, the term is used by some LINGUISTS to subsume the various LEVELS of FORMALITY found in speech. One proposal analyses

speech in terms of five such keys: 'frozen', 'formal', 'consultative', 'casual' and 'intimate'.

(2) See DOWNSTEP.

key list see CHART PARSER

kin(a)esthesia, kin(a)esthesia (*n.*) see KINESTHETIC FEEDBACK

kine, kineme (*n.*) see KINESICS

kinematics (*n.*) see ARTICULATORY KINEMATICS

kinesics (*n.*) A term in SEMIOTICS for the systematic use of facial expression and body gesture to communicate MEANING, especially as this relates to the use of LANGUAGE (e.g. when a smile or a frown alters the interpretation of a SENTENCE). In language ACQUISITION studies, the notion is present, under the heading of 'developmental' kinesics. Some analysts have applied the full EMIC terminology to this area, distinguishing **kinemes**, **kines** and **allokines**; but the extent to which one can handle 'body language' in these terms is controversial, as analytic criteria are less clear than in PHONOLOGY, and **kinesic** TRANSCRIPTIONS raise several problems of interpretation.

kinesthetic feedback or **kinaesthetic feedback** In PHONETICS, a term describing the internal process which enables speakers to be aware of the movements and positions of their VOCAL ORGANS during SPEECH; also called **kin(a)esthesia** or **kin(a)esthesia**. People sense movement or strain in their muscles, tendons and joints, and unconsciously use this information to monitor what takes place when they speak. Interference with this process (following a dental anesthetic, for example) can severely hinder a person's ability to talk normally.

kinetic (*adj.*) A term sometimes used in PHONOLOGY, applied to TONES which vary in PITCH range; also called 'dynamic' or 'contour' tones, and contrasted with 'static' or 'level' tones.

kinship terms In SEMANTICS, the system of LEXICAL ITEMS used in a LANGUAGE to express personal relationships within the family, in both narrow and extended senses. The FORMAL analysis of such terminology is often carried on using COMPONENTIAL analysis. The topic has attracted particular interest among linguists because of the way languages make different lexical distinctions within what is a clearly defined biological domain. Unlike English, other languages may have separate lexical items for male and female cousins, or for maternal and paternal aunts, or there may be no lexical contrast between brothers and cousins, or between father and uncles.

Kleene star (*) A mathematical term sometimes used in LINGUISTICS to refer to an OPERATOR used in a FORMALISM to specify a match for zero or more occurrences of the preceding EXPRESSION. For example, se^*t would match such strings as *st*, *seet*, *seeet*, etc; also called the **Kleene closure**. It is named after US mathematician Stephen Kleene (1909–94).

knowledge about language A term which emerged in the 1980s, along with its acronym **KAL** /kal/, to identify a strategic goal of **EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTIC** work in the UK. It involved the fostering of an increased awareness of the **STRUCTURE** and **FUNCTION** of spoken and written **LANGUAGE** by children as they move through the school curriculum. Although an essential element in linguistic approaches to language study for many years, the notion received a fresh lease of life from the report published by the Committee of Inquiry into English Language Teaching (known as the Kingman Report) in 1988, and the subsequent development of the country's National Curriculum in English, in which a range of targets for developing **LANGUAGE AWARENESS** was specified.

koine /'kɔɪni:/ (*n.*) The spoken **LANGUAGE** of a locality which has become a **STANDARD** language or **LINGUA FRANCA**. The term was originally used with reference to the Greek language used throughout the eastern Mediterranean countries during the Hellenistic and Roman periods; but it is now applied to cases where a **VERNACULAR** has come to be used throughout an area in which several languages or dialects are spoken, as in such notions as (for Old English) 'West Saxon literary koine' or (for US-influenced British English) 'mid-Atlantic koine'.

kymograph (*n.*) see **ELECTROKYMOGRAPH**