

**Grammar and Discourse.** Grammar and information flow; the expression of old and new information.

Traditionally, grammar studies have avoided relating grammatical units to discourse because this was considered beyond their object of study: the sentence as the largest syntactic unit. However, both generative and functional approaches to grammar have incorporated discourse aspects when trying to explain how some contextual processes are interpreted. The aim of this presentation is to explore how grammar describes these processes syntactically. Chomsky himself has stated that internalised language is related to performance systems that have their role in the articulation and interpretation of speech, the expression of thoughts and wishes, in referring and in narrating. This opens up a positive framework to explore the syntactic manifestation of performance. Gumperz says conversational inference should enable us to show how grammatical knowledge and the knowledge of language use interact. There are changes in the position of constituents that are the manifestation of the interaction of syntax and the performance systems. Givón considers the syntactic codification of the discourse function is imperfect so the processing of the discourse context makes it more effective through shared knowledge. The flow of discourse will be described from the point of view of Functional Grammar and its description of Theme and Rheme. We will deal mainly with the syntax of the Topic Phrase, passivisation and clefting. The syntactic and discourse analyses will be based on excerpts from 'The Old Man and the Sea' by Hemingway.